



Pirate day scuppered as crowds turn rowdy

By Ian Read

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ROWDY behaviour has been blamed for sinking Sheppey's popular World Walking the Plank Championship.

The wacky antics of contestants as they faced the waters of the Medway was always guaranteed to raise a smile – and much needed cash for the Sheerness lifeboat. But the behaviour of a minority around Queenborough Harbour last year has spoiled it for the majority, with organisers saying it left them little choice but to pull the plug.

Spokesman John Nurden said: "We invented the championship to help bring visitors to Sheppey and it certainly did that, but the antics of a few people has ruined it for the many."

Competitors walked the plank and took a dive into the River Medway while being judged on the quality of their costume, execution of their jump, use of pirate language and their star quality.

However, the writing had been on the

wall since Swale Borough Council's environmental health department asked for regular water testing to ensure the river was clean enough to drop into.

Now rival boroughs like Maidstone have enquired whether the competition could be moved – to become part of the annual River Festival.

Organiser of the event, Captain Cutlass of the Sheppey Pirates said he was distraught it was at an end.

He added: "It is with deep regret that we have cancelled this year's 14th World Walking the Plank Championship. The bad behaviour of a small number of the crowd at last year's event threatened the good reputation we have built for a trouble free family fun day.

"Their actions cost us essential goodwill which has made it impossible for us to continue at the same venue.

"We would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported us."

Sheppey Pirates will continue to raise cash for the RNLI but will have to find other ways to do so.



Street parties prove a right royal knees-up

[Full story – see inside](#)

WILDLIFE

Stung by bee hive crime

A SHEPPEY bee farmer believes other bee keepers could be behind a spate of recent hive thefts. Sudi Austin says she fears financial pressures due to dwindling bee numbers and harsh winters may have led some to desperate, criminal, measures.

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HISTORY

Body probe at Roman site

A MURDER mystery dating back to Roman times may have been solved by archaeologists. A team digging in Faversham discovered the remains of a young girl who, they believe, was killed by a Roman soldier. She was found with Iron Age pottery dating back to AD50.

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ELECTIONS

Use your vote this week

TOMORROW is polling day for both the local elections and the AV referendum - and it is widely anticipated to be one of the most unpredictable for years. Inside the leaders of all the major parties make their views known. But be sure to have your say and vote.

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ROYAL WEDDING

Couple's big day is celebrated in style across Kent

By Chris Britcher

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THOUSANDS took to the streets across Kent on Friday to celebrate the royal wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

As the happy couple exchanged vows at London's Westminster Abbey, nearly 200 street parties were staged with dozens of other special events taking place at village halls and other venues.

Among those attending the ceremony itself was Lord Lieutenant Allan Willett, the Queen's representative in Kent.

Speaking after the event, he said: "The atmosphere was amazing. Inside, the abbey is quite small and there was an intimate, personal feel to the service which was most moving. Prince William is a lovely man and she is quite beautiful. I was thrilled for both of them and wanted to tell everyone how much Kent loves them and is behind them."

"The whole thing has been a wonderful experience. Once again



Picture: ANDREW LINNETT/MOD



GUEST: Lord Lieutenant of Kent Allan Willett attended the wedding



millions have shown the depth of affection there still is for our Queen and the royal family.



COUNTY-WIDE CELEBRATIONS: Clockwise from top: The newly titled Duke and Duchess of Cambridge following their wedding; Lunch at Eastwell Manor, Ashford; Borden, near Sittingbourne, threw a party, pictured are organisers Paul Aspin, Eleanor Bishop, Julia Sudick and Gaynor Aspin with Maypole landlords Kev and Lesley; Celebrations at Norman Road, Canterbury; Watching on the big screen at Leeds Castle, near Maidstone; young party-goers at Dover College; Dartford town centre marks the day in style



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Bee keepers stung by an increase in hive thefts

By Mathew Beech

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A BEE farmer from Sheppey fears other bee keepers could be behind a worrying rise in the number of hive thefts.

Sudi Austin, the managing director of Flynn's Bee Farm, says she is both worried and saddened about the recent criminal activities that have blighted the bee keeping community.

She said: "The bees we have here are part of an international conservation project, part of the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders' Association (BIBBA), so of course we are worried.

"One of my friends has had some of their hives stolen and it is a very sad situation. It has to be bee keepers because they know what they are doing and know what they are looking for.

"It is probably someone who has had heavy losses, but we all have as we have had some harsh winters and are now also dealing with disease.

"All bee keepers are suffering."

The Kent Bee Keepers Association general secretary John Hendrie believes the internet has helped thieves locate hives belonging to honey producers.

HISTORY

The 2,000-year-old murder mystery dug up in a field near Faversham could be solved

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have dug up a Roman murder mystery on the outskirts of Faversham.

The group excavating the site of a Roman town in Syndale have found the body of a young girl they believed was fatally stabbed by a soldier before being dumped into her grave.

Site director Dr Paul Wilkinson, of SWAT Archaeology (the Swale and Thames Survey Company) which is behind the dig, believes she died as the invading armies under the Emperor Claudius marauded their way across the countryside in AD43.

Iron Age pottery dating to around AD50 found in the grave backs up this claim.

Dr Wilkinson said: "She was killed by a Roman soldier stabbing her in the back of the head."

"By the position of the entry wound she would have been kneeling at the time."

He said: "You can make out the hives on Google Earth. You have to know roughly where you are looking but you can recognise the hives.

"It might be people who need to complete their pollination contracts and need some extra colonies to do so. There is a shortage of bees and this has probably contributed towards the thefts.

"From what I've been told, the hives that have been left behind have been strapped and taped up like they know what they are doing.

"Sadly, this means that it is probably being done by bee keepers in order to help with pollination."

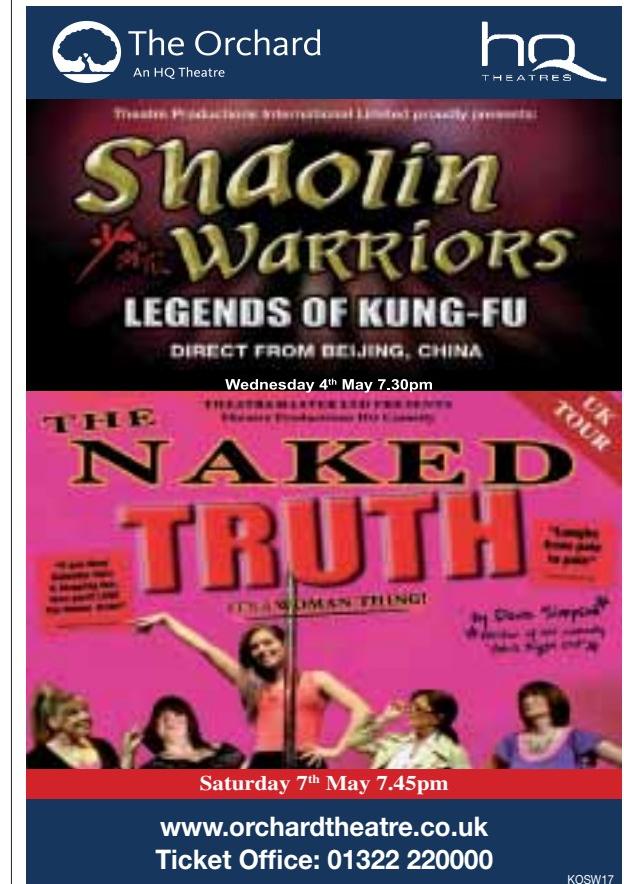
Due to the nature of bee-keeping there is only a limited amount keeper can do to protect their colonies.

Mrs Austin said: "They are difficult to protect because they are often in isolated and rural locations, in orchards and on farmland where they are difficult to monitor. I try not to publicise where my hives are and I have bees in many apiaries across the county."

"Some people make the mistake of putting their bees into white hives, but that is just advertising where the hives are. I have some hives in an allotment

A close-up photograph of a beekeeper wearing a white protective suit, a white hat with a blue patterned band, and a black mesh face shield. The beekeeper is holding a wooden frame from a beehive that is completely covered in bees. The background shows a green, grassy field under a clear blue sky.

THE BUZZ: Bee keepers fear other keepers are instigating the thefts





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RAIL SUMMIT

High-speed rail boost after Pfizer closure

By Marijke Cox

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HIGH-speed train links have been extended to Sandwich and Deal, signalling the start of a much-needed boost to the east Kent economy.

The new service, which will slash journey times to London from 135 minutes to 90 minutes, aims to create an incentive for businesses and investment as Pfizer withdraws from the Sandwich site in 2012, leaving 3,300 jobs at risk.

At a rail summit at County Hall on Wednesday, KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter – chairman of the taskforce set up to lessen the impact of Pfizer's decision to leave Kent – announced that peak services would be introduced in October.

Last week, KoS reported that Southeastern and rail campaigners were hoping that planned fast links to Sandwich during The Open from July 14-17 would pave the way for permanent services.

Cllr Carter said: "Journey times to Sandwich and Deal will be slashed by the introduction of this new high-speed service, which will provide an immediate boost to business and job prospects in the area and has long been called for by local residents."

"We've worked closely with Southeastern, local MPs and Dover District Council to secure the service at minimum cost.

"At a time of exceptional need for the area with the exit of Pfizer in 2012, we were determined to provide new high-speed links which would support local businesses and attract new investment."

The cost of the new service to KCC is approximately £151,000 a year, but County Hall said this would reduce the more the service was used.

High-speed trains will leave Sandwich for London St Pancras at 5.51am, 6.17am and 6.47am, calling at Deal five minutes later, and return at 5.40pm and 6.40pm.



Campaigners have welcomed the upcoming introduction, which was a specific recommendation in a recent report to Government by the taskforce.

MP for Thanet South Laura Sandys, who is part of the taskforce, said: "Pfizer's announcement in February to leave Sandwich by the end of 2012 was a massive blow, and we have been doing all we can to bring new employment opportunities to the area."

"This high-speed service is a tremendous incentive for new investment and business to locate here and great news for local people."

Her fellow Tory colleague Charlie Elphicke, MP for Dover and Deal, said: "The county council has done a great job in cracking this deal which

has long been called for by local residents and will be a real boost for local business."

Cllr Carter said KCC has "pump-primed" the service and that it was up to business and residents to take advantage.

"As service use grows, the potential to extend it to provide a full timetable throughout the day will be a real possibility which will boost local business prospects still further," he said.

A spokesman from Southeastern added: "We're pleased to be able to provide these new services which will help to improve the transport links to east Kent and benefit the people of Sandwich and Deal."

SERVICE EXTENDED:

Residents and businesses in east Kent will benefit from high-speed rail services, designed to boost job prospects and investment in the area

NEWS IN BRIEF

Attack victim wakes

A 21-YEAR-OLD man has woken from a coma, 18 days after he was attacked.

The man was in Hawley Street, Margate, between midnight and 12.30am on Sunday, April 10 when he was involved in an altercation in which he was punched and kicked. He suffered serious injuries, including fractures to his skull and was unconscious when the emergency services were called. He regained consciousness on Wednesday.

Plank-walking off

SHEPPEY Pirates have been forced to cancel this year's World Walking the Plank Championships because of badly-behaved yobs.

The 14th annual RNLI fundraising event was to have been held Queenborough Harbour on the Isle of Sheppey, on Sunday, August 14.

Pirates' leader Captain Cutlass said: "The bad behaviour of a small number of the crowd last year has lost us essential goodwill, which has made it impossible for us to stage the event."

KCC grants available

COMMUNITY groups have been invited to apply to Kent County Council for grants.

Last year Cllr Mike Whiting allocated £10,000 to local organisations, and more than £30,000 for highways-related spending.

He said: "This year I have over £20,000 available for local organisations, and £25,000 to spend on highways issues."

Apply at www.kent.gov.uk.

STUNT MAN DEATH

Police probe continues into human cannonball tragedy

By Chris Britcher
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SHOW: A stunt man is fired from the cannon into the net

ular and what a nice guy he was."

All further shows have been cancelled.

A statement posted on the stunt team's website said: "We still do not know what caused this dreadful accident. Scott and the team are still reeling with shock and grief over the loss of their colleague and fellow stunt performer in the tragic accident at a recent show."

Acting Chief Inspector of Kent Police, Steve Griffiths, said: "My officers will be looking into this tragic incident to try and establish what happened. The Health and Safety Executive have been consulted."

"At this time we will be taking the lead in conducting an investigation, alongside health and safety from Maidstone Borough Council, as we need to understand why this poor man died so that we can take the appropriate steps."

Video footage taken by spectators appear to show the net collapsing at the point Mr Cranch was fired into the sky.

Man, had been part of the Scott May Daredevil Stunt Show – a touring team based in Cornwall that performs across the UK. Just days before the Detling show it had performed in Folkestone and Margate.

Mr Cranch had joined the stunt outfit just a few weeks ago.

A former barman in Newquay, friends described him as "extremely popular" and were devastated by his death.

Former employer Will Ashworth said: "I don't think I could over-estimate how pop-

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Witness Rob Hutchinson, from Tenterden, was watching with his wife and children. He said: "I saw him hit the floor and bounce. It was like a dummy being thrown."

Mr Cranch, whose devastated parents live on the Isle of

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AV REFERENDUM

Clegg's fault if AV 'sideshow' fails in referendum, says polling expert

By Steve Knight

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POLLING expert Sir Robert Worcester has predicted Nick Clegg will be to blame if the Alternative Vote referendum is defeated.

The Maidstone resident and founder of the MORI research group told KoS that Mr Clegg's position as the face of the 'Yes to AV' campaign is likely to backfire because the Lib Dem leader has become increasingly unpopular with the public.

Voters will be asked to decide if they support a change from the current first-past-the-post system when the polls open for the local elections on Thursday.

Sir Robert said: "I don't think the motion is going to pass. The polls are showing substantial numbers against AV of those who intend to vote."

"Half the Labour MPs are against it as well as the Conservatives, and that's going to weigh in."

Sir Robert served as a government adviser ahead of the 1975 referendum on whether or not to stay in the European Economic Community, as well as the 1979 post-legislative referendum



MORI FOUNDER: Sir Robert Worcester

on whether there was support for Scottish devolution.

"I have learned that the results of referendums are very much weighted by who is in favour of or against a certain proposal," he said.

"There doesn't seem to be very many who are speaking out in favour of AV other than Nick Clegg, and he's damaged goods."

Sir Robert said he was not expecting a large turnout for the referendum, but that numbers would be artificially boosted by the local elections and Scottish and Welsh assembly elections.

"The AV vote is a bit of a sideshow," he added.

Under the AV system, voters rank candidates in order of preference. Anyone receiving more than 50 per cent is elected, otherwise the person with the fewest votes is eliminated and their backers' second choices allocated to those remaining.

Backers of the Yes campaign say AV would be fairer, make MPs work harder, and would end wasted votes.

Prime Minister David Cameron is the most prominent member of the 'No to AV' campaign and outlined his opposition to the system when he made a speech in Maidstone this week.

He said: "I think AV is completely unfair, seriously undemocratic and hopelessly unclear, and there are some obvious arguments for sticking with what we've got."

"First-past-the-post is a system so clear it can be summed up in one sentence – we all vote for our favourite and the one with the most votes wins."

"It's a system so democratic that each person has one vote of equal worth. A system so decisive that time and again it's allowed the British people to kick out tired governments."

CORONERS' SERVICE

Poor communication skills by doctors 'partly to blame' for pressures on coroners' service

By Steve Knight

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A RESPECTED former coroner says doctors with poor communication skills are partly to blame for an increase in the reported number of unexpected deaths.

Roger Sykes, who this week retired from his position as coroner for mid Kent and Medway, says families have become more likely to ask for an inquest due to them not being given the full details of a loved one's condition before their death.

A coroner's job is to investigate sudden or unexplained deaths and decide whether post-mortem examinations and inquests should be held, but Mr Sykes says caseloads have increased dramatically in recent years.

He added that an over-reliance on junior and locum doctors was also partly to blame for the rise, saying many do not feel comfortable recommending seriously ill patients for major surgery.

Mr Sykes, from Sissinghurst, near Tunbridge Wells, said: "There's certainly been an increase in the number of deaths where the family suspects something could have been done or wasn't done in a hospital setting. As a society we have lost trust and confidence in our hospital services, and often that's down to poor communication."

"I think consultants spend less time with their patients than they used to, meaning it may be down to junior doctors who have not yet learned

how to communicate with families. They're more likely to tell them they're optimistic of a recovery, which may not be realistic."

"A more experienced doctor may tell a family to prepare themselves for the worst. Communication is something that's very important in practice but I don't know how much it forms part of medical training."

Mr Sykes said that when he was appointed coroner for Maidstone in 1986, he had a caseload of just 400 deaths a year. The figure now stands at about 2,500 a year, which is partly due to him taking responsibility for a larger area of Kent.

The former children's solicitor added that the Dr Shipman serial murder case meant doctors were now more likely to contact a coroner following the death of a patient, and the requirement to investigate all prison deaths had also added to the workload.

"One trend I'm particularly aware of is that over weekends hospital wards have cover from junior doctors and possibly locums, who in some cases may not know a patient very well, if at all," said Mr Sykes.

"They may defer important decisions about treatment until after the weekend when the regular team comes back on shift. You can understand that it would be an easier life to wait until Monday, but sometimes that doesn't work out and you get a sad outcome."

Late last year Kent County Council revealed

that Mr Sykes' successor as mid-Kent and Medway coroner will eventually take responsibility for the three other districts – north-west Kent, north-east Kent and central and south-east Kent – once the other coroners resign or retire.

The authority has also proposed building a single mortuary for the whole of Kent, as opposed to spending about £1 million per year on post-mortem examinations at five different hospitals throughout the region.

The average cost of one examination is £189, and last year 4,396 were held in Kent – accounting for more than half the 7,443 deaths reported.

The mortuary proposal has been labelled as insensitive for bereaved families who may have to travel great distances to identify a body, but Mr Sykes said he sympathised with the council's plight.

"Funding is such an important part of everything councils do so there's an argument for making things cheaper," he said.

"I have a lot of sympathy for KCC officers who support the coroners' service, as I suspect it's the only part of the council's operations over which they have no control."

"You can tell the education department you are cutting its budget by 10 per cent but you can't say there's going to be 10 per cent fewer deaths this year. It's completely demand-led and some county councillors may not understand that."

■ See p50 for more on Mr Sykes' career.



RETired: Former mid Kent and Medway coroner Roger Sykes is standing down after 25 years

ELDERLY CARE

Care homes agency 'faces ruin' if rents aren't reduced

By Steve Knight

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A UNION has called for rents to be lowered on a care agency's residential homes to help prevent it from going under.

Southern Cross, which currently runs 10 care homes in Kent, announced last month that it had held talks with the Government about its money worries, leading to concerns the firm could be forced into administration.

The GMB union has some 10,000 members employed by the group and is accusing the company's landlords of overcharging by up to £60 per week, per care home bed – totalling about £100 million per year.

Senior organiser Paul Maloney said: "The 10 Kent care homes run by Southern Cross are not factories that are failing from lack of demand, but are an essential part of the community which now faces ruin due to the combination of privatisation and private equity."

"The boast of the private sector is that it can run services

better than the public sector.

"This is yet another case of where the private sector has already made huge profits from the public funds and expects the taxpayer to pay to clear up the mess now that it is all going wrong."

"We want to ask what the Government is doing to put pressure on the landlords to cut rents down to market levels and save £100m per annum of UK taxpayers' money."

Kent County Council currently pays about £2m a year to fund the care of 85 elderly people living in five of the 10 care homes run by Southern Cross.

They are Elvy Court in Sittingbourne; Highfield in Canterbury; Kingsfield in Faversham; and Fairfield Manor and Woodlands, both in Broadstairs.

Kent's five remaining Southern Cross homes are based either in Medway or on the London border. They are Copper Beeches in Rochester; Frindsbury Hall in Strood; Adelaide in Bexleyheath; and Lauriston House and St Raphael's, both in Bromley.

Last month, the firm announced that it had held a meeting with 20 of its landlords – representing 92 per cent of its homes – and that a series of proposals were now being considered.

A statement read: "No decisions were made at this meeting but there is a general recognition of the value to all parties of moving forward to a solution in an orderly fashion.

"Southern Cross reaffirmed that the provision of care remains the priority for all parties and that the negotiation process has not, and will not, compromise the quality of care Southern Cross provides to its 31,000 residents."

Mr Maloney welcomed news of the meeting and said it was a necessary step towards reducing the rent burden.

He added: "These landlords are overcharging for rents on the buildings to the tune of £60 per week, per bed."

"GMB considers that all Southern Cross landlords have to cut the rents if the company is to be brought back from the brink and the threat to residents and staff lifted."

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TURNER CONTEMPORARY

Gallery curries favour as seaside trade rockets

By Marijke Cox

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EIGHT hundred pints of milk used in two days, 400 curries sold in two hours, and the best day's trading of seafood in 50 years – could this be the start of Margate's renaissance?

The once-thriving seaside resort may have fallen on hard

times in recent years, but with more than 45,500 art lovers descending on the town to see the new Turner Contemporary, tourism heads believe this could be the return of its heyday.

Visitor figures for the £17.5 million gallery reached a staggering 45,563 in just 10 days, with 14,000 people in the opening weekend of

April 16-17 – double the numbers predicted.

Turner Contemporary director Victoria Pomery said: "This has been a fantastic 10 days. Margate is buzzing and we are looking forward to many more visitors."

Eight hundred pints of milk were used in the gallery's café in just two days and the Mad

Hatter tea rooms in Margate Old Town sold 100 cakes on the opening day.

Manning's Seafood Stall, opposite the Turner, had its busiest day of trading in 50 years; the Cupcake Café sold 800 cakes in the opening weekend; and award-winning Indian restaurant the Ambrette sold more than 400 curries in just over two hours from its stall on the Harbour Arm.

Daniel Goldman, owner of Café G. in the Old Town, said: "Due to our positioning and the work we've put in, we're seeing more visitors. You can feel the Old Town coming together nicely. There are good galleries, cafés, shops and bars – there are exciting times ahead."

During the opening weekend, Margate Visitor Information Centre boasted 3,000 visitors to the new gallery-side location at Droit House; more than 1,700 dropped in to the historical Tudor House; and almost 2,000 visited Margate Museum in the Old Town.

Thanet District Council chief executive Richard Samuel said: "With 150,000 anticipated visitors to the Turner Contemporary in its first year, the benefits for the area will be untold."

But while most celebrated, others were not so positive about the new addition.

Those who tried to visit the gallery two days after the opening found the doors shut due to Monday closing, despite it being

picture: PAUL JERREAT



ART BOOST: Margate traders have noticed a big upsurge in trade

Easter holidays, and there was also criticism from art lovers.

Dr Selby Whittington, of the Independent Turner Society, said the gallery was not "Turner-friendly" and "The original inspiration for the gallery has been lost sight of. That was to illustrate Turner's connection with Margate."

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EDUCATION

Top schools get £4.5m meant for inner city kids

EXCLUSIVE

Marijke Cox

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MORE than £4.5 million a year of Government funding is being "unfairly" pumped into selected schools to spend as they wish through a project abolished five years ago.

And despite the grants being designed specifically to help schools in deprived urban areas, many of those in Kent receiving the no-strings-attached cash are in affluent areas or are grammar schools.

Figures obtained through a Freedom of Information request by Peter Read of Kent Independent Education Advice revealed a total of £4.5 million was being handed over annually through the former Excellence in Cities scheme, which was abolished in 2006.

The project looked to raise standards in deprived and underachieving schools in cities and urban areas through ring-fenced grants.

Some high-achieving secondary schools were allocated money to help selected primaries.

Once abolished, Kent County Council was required by the Government to continue payments and this year the ring-fencing was removed, allowing schools to spend the money as they wished with no restrictions.

But where 53 Kent schools – 35 primary and 18 secondary – benefit from thousands of pounds of the funding each year, around 540 are missing out.

A KCC consultation found the majority of schools supported the removal of the "unfair" system where similar schools receive vastly different levels of funding.

Although some recipients are in deprived areas or deemed to be underachieving, selective schools such as Harvey Grammar in Folkestone, Highworth Grammar School for Girls in Ashford, and Folkestone Grammar School for Girls receive £138,472, £106,722 and £153,213 respectively.

Pent Valley Technology College is handed £202,210 each year. The North School in Ashford £245,060, and The Towers School in Ashford £237,085.

Primary schools under the scheme receive around £40,000, although others were handed

more, such as Kennington CoE Junior School with £58,371 and Cliftonville Primary School which got £74,927.

Mr Read called it a "disgraceful waste of money".

KCC cabinet member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Sarah Hohler, explained the original Excellence in Cities scheme was a specific, ring-fenced grant, assigned using Government eligibility criteria.

"After the scheme ended, KCC and other local authorities were required by government to continue passing on the same level of per pupil funding as the year before," she said.

"While opposed to this approach, we had no say and could not vary the funding."

"As soon as it was announced in 2010 that these grants were to be 'mainstreamed' in 2011 and the ring-fencing removed, KCC consulted schools on proposals to remove all these historical anomalies and instead fund schools on our fairer local formula without reference to historical payments.

"The local Schools Funding Forum previously had the power to do this but, in late

2010, the Secretary of State removed this power. KCC asked the Secretary of State for his approval to implement these fairer local arrangements, phased over the next three years, but approval was refused.

"School budgets 2011-12 have therefore been issued still including these historical levels of grant funding."

"The Government will give no assurances or indications of future arrangements beyond March 2012, since it is now consulting on a wide-ranging review of the national school funding system."

Cllr Hohler said KCC remained committed to removing the anomalies, providing the Government did not re-

place local funding formulae with a single national one.

A Department for Education spokeswoman said the funding system was out of date and Government was considering a reform.

She added that distribution of school development grants was for KCC to determine in consideration with its Schools Forum.

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News

NHS BUDGET CUTS

Cuts could force closure of rehab centre for MS and spinal patients

By **Marijke Cox**

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

PATIENTS fear a clinic providing specialist treatment for multiple sclerosis sufferers faces closure due to financial pressures on the NHS.

Bexley's Elmstead Rehabilitation Unit, at Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup, is the only centre in Kent providing dedicated services for people with MS, cerebral palsy, and spinal injuries.

Charity the MS Society said if the NHS clinic was closed patients would have nowhere to go for specialist treatment from expertly-trained staff and instead would have to use routine physiotherapy.

"This would be adequate, but not specialist for those conditions," said a spokeswoman. "The unit provides rehabilitation on its own ward and through an outpatient service.

"The physiotherapy and care is crucial to help people recover from debilitating MS relapses or other ill-



nesses and to enable people to stay mobile so they are more independent and less reliant on their carers."

In a bid to save the service, which is under review by Bexley NHS Care Trust, a campaign was launched by patients with a petition boasting more than 700 signatures so far.

Patient Brenda Gilmore, 60, one of the 400 who use the service each year, said: "This saved my life. I

cannot stress what a severe loss the closure of this unit would be to those of us who rely on the skills and support of such dedicated staff."

Bexley MP James Brokenshire said: "I will be doing all I can to ensure that this important service is retained."

A Bexley NHS Care Trust spokeswoman said the unit was not being closed but a review of how services

SPECIALIST TREATMENT:
The Elmstead Rehabilitation Unit is the only clinic of its type in the county

could best be provided would be carried out. "The unit remains part of the overall vision for health and well-being services at QMS," she said.

"The first stage of this process (the review) will be a series of 'roundtable' discussions, where GP commissioners listen to stakeholders, examine the benefits of the current service model and discuss whether any change in the local service is required."

HEALTH

Girls urged to get cancer jabs

SCHOOLGIRLS are being reminded that they need all three HPV jabs to maximise their protection against cervical cancer.

As school nurses prepare to offer the third HPV jab to Year 8 girls (aged 12-13) in Medway secondary schools next term, NHS Medway is urging girls and their parents to make sure they are vaccinated.

Consultant in public health medicine Dr Maggie Bruce said: "It is important girls have all three vaccinations for maximum protection against cancer in later life."

HPV immunisation is 99 per cent effective in uninfected girls against the two types of the Human Papillomavirus which cause more than 75 per cent of cases of cervical cancer, which is the second most common cancer among women aged 25-49 in the UK.

SPEEDING

Speeding driver was on phone

A SPEEDING motorist has been fined £525 and given six penalty points for speeding while using his mobile phone.

A safety camera van caught both offences in Willington Street, Maidstone in August last year.

Oliver Scrivener of Wykeham Grove, Maidstone, was found guilty of both offences in court and received the licence points as well as a £175 fine for the phone offence, plus a £350 fine for driving at 42mph in a 30mph zone.

Katherine Barrett of the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership said: "The laser cameras and DVD system used in the safety camera vans are able to detect people speeding, using a mobile phone and drivers not wearing seat belts - all at the same time."

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COMPETITION

Get to grips with some tasty art



HEALTHY ART: The London Skyline fruit and vegetable picture is inspired by the competition's theme of celebrating the London 2012 Olympics

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

IT'S an art form which perhaps whets the appetite more than any other. Because this remarkable London landscape is not a product of paint on canvas, but more broccoli and pineapple.

And, to herald the return of the annual Create a Fruit & Veg Masterpiece art competition in Kent, the cityscape is created entirely out of food.

With asparagus as a lamp-post, broccoli for trees, and a melon forming the dome of St Paul's Cathedral, it provides a fascinating example of what can be achieved when your palette looks more like a shopping basket than a selection of paints and pastels.

It was created to underline the London 2012 theme to this year's contest, by specialist foodscape photographer, artist and TV regular Carl Warner.

Mr Warner has made his name with a selection of impressive foodscape, ranging from seaside views, created with fish and shells, to streets made entirely of bread.

Sponsored by Hadlow College and RJ Kingsland & Son, and with funding from the Kent 2012 Small Grants Fund, the Create a Fruit & Veg Masterpiece competition has been devised by food and drink champions Produced in Kent.

The competition aims to encourage young children of primary school age to interact with Kentish, seasonal fruit and vegetables and devise

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LIVE FINAL & PRIZES

TV's very own foodscape artist Carl Warner will pick the three best solo and team entries and the finalists will be invited to re-create their picture in front of a panel of judges at the live final on Friday, July 1.

Prizes: Everyone who made the finishing line at the live final will receive a medal for their achievement – gold, silver, or bronze.

The finalists' masterpieces will be printed within the pages of this newspaper and the children will all be media stars for the day

appearing on our website YourKentTV.co.uk.

Individual category: Winner – A stunning panoramic framed foodscape print of London Skyline, generously donated by Carl Warner.

They will also receive a copy of Kelly Holmes' My Olympic 10 Days book – a day by day account of the ten days that were to change Kelly's life forever, during the Athens 2004 Olympic games. Plus a host of gardening goodies.

Runners-up – Gardening goodies together with Carl Warner's beautiful

coffee table hard-backed 128-page book entitled Food Landscapes and giving a fascinating insight into how the foodscape artist creates his pictures.

Group category: Winner – Bumper gardening hamper packed with gardening goodies donated by Broadview, including seeds and tools to get kids started with grow your own, together with a London Skyline framed print generously donated by Carl Warner.

Runners Up – Gardening hampers.

a picture made from real fruit and veg, as well as encouraging children to engage with sport, the 2012 Olympics and a healthy lifestyle.

What's more, Archant KOS Media, publishers of this newspaper, have thrown our support behind the project to become media partners.

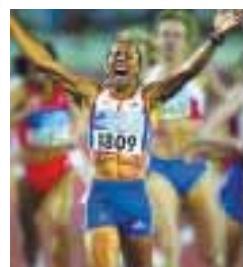
The big name home grown talent also involved will be Olympic superstar Dame Kelly Holmes. The Hildenborough runner will launch the competition, which goes under starter's orders on Tuesday, May 3, and runs until June 13.

Produced in Kent's Julie Monkman said: "We

are absolutely thrilled to have the fantastic support of such an outstanding sportswoman and role model for young people – Kent's very own Olympic champion Dame Kelly Holmes.

"We've also added some bumper new prizes this year and a very exciting live final, which will be judged by TV's foodscape photographer and artist Carl Warner. With such an exciting competition we are looking forward to a bumper crop of entries."

For details on how to take part, and to see a gallery of last year's winners, visit the website www.producedinkent.co.uk.



INSPIRING:

Double Olympic gold medal winner Dame Kelly Holmes, right, will officially launch the competition. Above is an example of what you could do – a chilli pepper canoeist prepares for the big event

HOW TO ENTER

To show off your fruit and veg creation follow these guidelines.

There are two categories – solo and teams – so decide if you want to make an individual entry, or club together in a group – you might be a school class, Brownie pack, Cub pack or Sunday School. As long as you go to school in Kent and are of primary school age (Reception to Year 6) you can enter.

Step one: Gather together locally grown fruit and vegetables that are in season in Kent during May and June. For tips, go to www.producedinkent.co.uk and see 'useful

information – what's in season?'

Step two: Create a picture about the Olympics; it can be any Olympic sport, an iconic scene from London or the Olympic Stadium... let your imagination run wild.

Step three: Take a photograph and email it to our panel of judges before the closing date of Monday, June 13.

All Kent primary schools will receive free posters about the competition as will many Brownie and Cub packs. However if you would like to directly receive an electronic poster, please email events@producedinkent.co.uk.

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Photograph by Karl Grant, Gamma Press London

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On both days TV celebrity Claire Sweeney will be hosting two fabulous catwalk shows.

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Party leaders keen to convince you

As Kent voters prepare to go to the polls on May 5, to choose their local councillors and have their say on our voting system, the leaders of the five main parties put forward their arguments

UKIP: by party leader Nigel Farage

THE first local elections since the Coalition took over will not be the ringing endorsement a new government would be hoping for.

And this should be no surprise, given the frequency at which pledges have been ignored and the torrent of unpopular laws from Brussels.

Local councils are the basis of democracy, but never have they been more under threat from central Government, which is insisting local authorities slash services.

And of course, like most areas of life, they are under attack from the EU directives.

In a tough economic climate, we need to look at changes to the financial problems of local authorities. We should start by giving councils local control over their finances, letting them keep half of the local

business rates and replacing VAT with a Local Sales Tax.

Not only would Ukip stop the £48m a day we send to Brussels we would bring about changes at the heart of communities to restore localism.

Ukip is opposed to the development of wind farms within communities which have had a negative impact in Kent, and they stop a realistic alternative to fossil fuels.

Ukip also believes major local planning decisions should be subject to local referenda; for who knows more about what a community needs than the people who live there?

A few weeks ago I wrote about the meeting in Brussels to find a solution to discards. Well, at the time of writing and, I suspect, the time of publication there is no solution. And yet we could solve it simply

and quickly to end the devastation of British fishing and to restore life into Kent's coastal towns and villages again.

We are already experiencing an influx of 1,000 people every single day who come to the UK to live from abroad. Ukip proposes that we reintroduce proper border controls and triple UK Border Agency staff to ensure that we are not a 'soft touch'. The Government claims that two million homes must be built to solve the housing shortage, yet much of this need is due to uncontrolled immigration.

Nuisance neighbours and 'no go' areas in communities must not be tolerated. We would also repair council housing to restore civic pride and cement a feeling of community.

Ukip are the only party standing up for this country.

LABOUR: by party leader Ed Miliband

FOR many people the local elections are the first chance since the General Election to reflect on whether our country is heading in the right direction.

I believe there are three big challenges in Britain today: the cost of living crisis; will our kids get on in life and do better than we did; and how can we build strong, safe communities?

These are the big issues, and this Conservative-led Government is failing to address them.

Because they have decided to cut too far and too fast, they are taking the country in the wrong direction.

We all know the country faces difficult times and the deficit has to be reduced and we would have done that. We would halve the deficit in four years. The Tories and Lib Dems are choosing to go much further and faster, and their choice will destroy many of the things we value in our communities.

The Tory-led Government's cuts to local government will hit the average two-adult household with children by £182 in 2011-12. Many people in Kent will already be feeling the effects of the Government's spending cuts and cuts to services, the threat of redundancy, the increase in VAT and the tax credit changes which will make the squeeze even tighter, for the squeezed middle. The latest figures show the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Kent rose by over 1,500 at the turn of the year to just over 26,500.

The scale and pace of these



VALUES: Labour's Ed Miliband

cuts threaten what I call the promise of Britain – the belief that the next generation must do better than the last.

Funding for the Building Schools for the Future programme has been scrapped, with four school projects dropped in Gravesham alone. Sure Start centres are being closed. Tuition fees trebled. Education Maintenance Allowances and the Future Jobs Fund scrapped.

The safety of our streets in the battle against crime is also being put at risk by scrapping 1,500 police jobs in Kent, while the youth services, leisure centres and after-school clubs that help combat the causes of crime are being shut. These cuts risk turning the clock back and threaten to unpick the fabric of our communities.

No-one should be in doubt: these cuts are coming from

Downing Street to your street. Labour can do something better. I want us to be able to protect people through difficult times.

Labour councils are focusing, and will focus, on supporting front-line services. We want to keep communities strong and safe and share the burden of cuts as fairly as possible.

Being a Labour council under this Government is not going to be easy. But what matters to us is the chance to put our values into action.

We know that means tough decisions. For example, Labour in Gravesham is promising to cut councillors' allowances by £100,000 a year, putting this saving back into services.

Compare this to the Conservatives on Kent County Council who are selling off the last council-run old people's homes in Kent. The elderly residents of Sampson Court in Deal are left uncertain of their future care and accommodation.

So Labour councils will strive to protect what matters most. Labour councillors will put the communities they serve first. We will try to make things a little fairer for hard-pressed families.

These are our values. These are the choices we'd make.

If you want a strong first line of defence against the scale of the cuts, if you want tough decisions to be taken fairly and openly.

If you want councillors who will be your voice in tough times. If you feel betrayed by this Tory-led government who break promise after promise.

Then vote Labour on May 5.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS: by party leader Nick Clegg

AS THE Liberal Democrats approach the local elections, we do so with pride.

For the first time in 70 years, Liberal Democrats are in government, putting into practice the values and experience of years in councils.

Because of the Liberal Democrats, 19,200 of the lowest paid workers in Kent were lifted out of paying Income Tax altogether this month.

And because we have raised the threshold at which people start paying Income Tax, more than half a million people in Kent have received a £200 cash tax cut.

It is because of Liberal Democrats in government that more than 300,000 Kent pensioners have seen a real rise in their pensions.

We have restored the earnings link to pensions. That means that someone retiring on a basic state pension today can expect to get £15,000 more over the course of their retirement than they would have under Labour.

And for future pensioners, we are creating a more generous flat rate pension, so people can look forward to retirement with confidence.



YEARS OF EXPERIENCE: Lib Dem Nick Clegg

The Liberal Democrat pupil premium, worth £2.5bn a year by the end of the parliament, means more money going to schools in Kent, targeted at the most disadvantaged children.

And we are creating more apprenticeships than Britain has ever had before – a quarter of a million more by 2015.

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FREE Estimates

why their policies are right for Kent



CONSERVATIVES: by PM David Cameron

ELEVEN months ago we inherited an economy built on the worst deficit, the biggest housing bubble, the most leveraged banks, the most indebted households, the most out-of-control public spending, the most unsustainable immigration, an education system dumbed down and a welfare system messed up.

Once again Labour didn't so much run our country as run our country into the ground, and once again it has fallen to the Conservative Party to come in, clear up the mess and give our country the leadership she needs.

I hope you agree we haven't wasted any time in turning things round. The Conservative policies you backed are the policies we are delivering.

We promised business people we'd get off their backs and get behind them, and look at what we've done – cutting corporation tax, scrapping Labour's jobs tax, promoting enterprise at home and British business around the world.

We promised the British people we'd bring immigration down to sensible levels and we have capped the numbers coming to this country.

We promised our pensioners dignity and security in their old age and we have raised the basic state pension in line with earnings.

We promised nurses, doctors and police officers we'd stop bossing them around all the time, and so many of those top-down targets are already gone.

Cutting public spending might not be popular, but it is right.

It is right to get a grip on



MESSAGE: PM David Cameron

these debts before they get a grip on us. It is right to sort out Labour's mess, instead of leaving it for our children to clear up.

If anyone asks you – what has the government done for us in Kent? – let them know. Let them know about the £68 million of government funding for the Isle of Sheppey Academy and the Spires Academy near Canterbury, funding that's going to open up opportunity for thousands more young people.

Let them know that because of the new pupil premium we've brought in, schools in Kent Local Authority will receive more than £11m towards the education of disadvantaged children.

Let them know our work experience programme for unemployed people could benefit over 8,000 people here in the South East. And let them know that, because we're increasing the personal tax allowance, we're taking 140,000 people in this region out of tax altogether.

And there's something else people need to know about, and that's the amazing work of Conservatives in councils across Kent. Yes, they've faced some incredibly tough decisions and like every council they've got to work harder than ever to deliver more for less. But by cutting back office, sharing services, slashing waste, they're making millions of savings this year and freezing council tax.

Medway is halving its annual payment to trade unions, saving local taxpayers almost £50,000 – so at the same time, in the face of those budget cuts, they're not closing a single leisure centre or library.

Gravesend is sharing a chief executive with Tonbridge and Malling, saving each council more than £50,000, and they are running a balanced budget without having to make any compulsory redundancies.

And in Maidstone they have slimmed down their management team while protecting frontline services.

It's as true here in Kent as it is the country over – good local government costs less with the Conservatives.

So if you want value for money and councillors who get things done, vote Conservative on May 5, and don't let Labour do to your council what they did to our country.

councils up and down the country.

We all know these are difficult times for councils as they struggle to make cuts as we deal with the financial mess left by Labour. But Liberal Democrat councillors are showing cuts can be made with care and compassion.

Liberal Democrats don't have any MPs in Kent, but we do have lots of hard-working councillors. They can be trusted to stand up for local people and services. They can be trusted to look for sensible solutions to difficult problems.

When you go to vote on May 5, a referendum is taking place that will finally give you a say on how your MPs are elected.

It's a choice between the First Past the Post system we use now and the Alternative Vote, a fairer way of voting that means MPs will need to seek the support of half of voters to be elected.

I believe First Past the Post is out of date and at the heart of so many of the reasons people have become disconnected from politics.

It allows people to be elected with just a fraction of their constituents supporting them.



GREEN PARTY: by party leader Caroline Lucas

THE local elections on May 5 present a crucial opportunity for voters to look back on the first year of the Coalition government, to judge the performance of our councils, and to decide who leads us forward.

There is cynicism surrounding all parties. But not all parties and politicians are the same. The Green Party is committed to protecting our communities from the Conservative-led government's savage public spending cuts.

The severe financial settlements handed down by central government to local councils will mean tough decisions up and down the UK. The Greens

offer a positive alternative vision of the kind of society we want to help create.

In Kent and the South East, the Greens know that we face an acute housing shortage.

There are more than 36,000 households on council waiting lists in Kent and Medway, yet about 22,000 houses and about 6,000 industrial buildings lie empty. We must bring these properties back into use as homes and business sites.

At a time of soaring energy bills, the Greens believe that renewable energy is a real no brainer. Greens in Swale want their council to set up energy service companies to install solar panels on council buildings as well as offering similar services to local residents to help keep energy costs down.

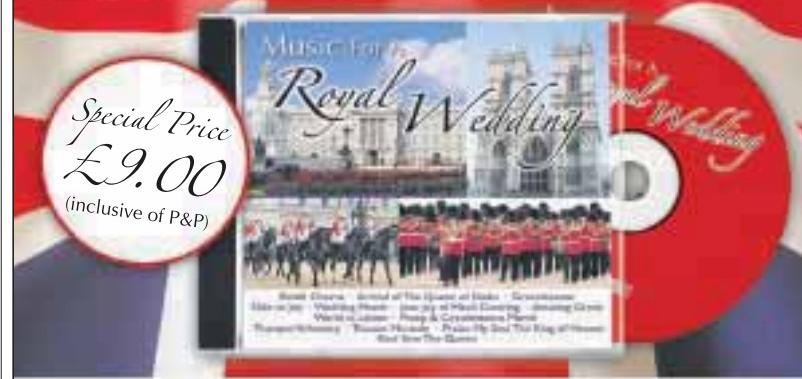
Greens know that independent traders play a key role in local communities. The Greens in Kent want to support smaller businesses by using planning powers to protect and encourage affordable work and retail space – and by introducing a local rewards card.

The Green Party is now the only true opposition party. If you care about defending our public services, protecting our natural world and building a better society for the future, vote Green on May 5.

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PARALYMPICS

Kent's disabled athletes training hard to win a place in the London Paralympics

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

WITH less than 500 days until the Paralympics, disabled athletes from across Kent are hoping they do enough to impress the Team GB selectors.

The KentSport division of Kent County Council has pledged to raise the profile of disability sports in the county with hopes of finding the next Tanni Grey-Thompson, who was born with spina bifida but won 11 Paralympic gold medals between 1988 and 2007.

Disability sports manager Michael Bishop said the authority had long supported wannabe athletes, but had a renewed focus ahead of next year's London games.

He said: "For the Athens Olympics (in 2004) we had one Kent athlete and for Beijing (2008) we had six, but currently I've got a list of 20 names who could make Lon-



TRY: Wheelchair rugby player Steve Brown (right) hopes to represent Great Britain at the Olympics

don, including 14 who probably will.

"For example, Dartford Judo Club is a national performance venue that has a number of disabled athletes. Ben Quilter (visually impaired) now lives in

the town as a result and is the current world champion.

"We've also got a wheelchair rugby team in the county, and Steve Brown is in the Great Britain squad at the moment.

"But there's still a few

months to go until the Paralympic teams are named. Most of them won't be finalised before February next year, and some not until the following June."

Mr Bishop said KentSport is

699

We have a few athletes who participated in Beijing who said it was above and beyond anything they'd ever experienced

MICHAEL BISHOP, OF KENTS

someone is showing promise, and they will put them through to various competitions and tournaments, but some sports you get fast-tracked much quicker than others.

"For example, wheelchair basketball is very popular and you can spend five or six years slogging away at club level before you are even considered for the Paralympics."

The Paralympic Games will be held from August 29-September 9, following the conclusion of next year's Olympics.

"We have a few athletes who participated in Beijing and they said it was above and beyond anything they'd ever experienced before," said Mr Bishop.

"Some say that no matter how well you perform, your first Games are always good enough. But a medal for any of our athletes would be the icing on the cake."

■ Turn to p27 for more on Kent's Olympic hopefuls.



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LITERATURE

Wells festival a celebration of past and future

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT'S time for Kent book lovers to step into the time machine again and get ready for this year's HG Wells Festival.

The famed sci-fi writer produced some of his best works while living in the county, and because he was so prolific, the festival organisers launched a writing competition that has since become so popular the organisers are over the Moon.

One of them, former BBC space correspondent, Reg Turnill, said: "We always have a major campaign to increase children's and young people's awareness of the importance of reading and writing."

"So we came up with a competition, which was launched at The Grand in Folkestone, on Good Friday by best-selling novelist Sandra Howard, wife of newly ennobled Lord Howard of Lympne."

"It is the start of the third annual HG Wells Festival, built around the writing competitions with cash prizes now totalling £1,500. All the previous competitors – there are now more than 120 – were invited to attend a series of Literary Tea Parties.

"They can discuss ideas for stories and articles, and additionally Sue Dinsdale, extended schools development manager for Shepway, organised a parallel story writing project involving children at four schools.

"The Wells Festival, celebrating the work of the famous author who wrote his much-loved novels and sci-fi stories in Sandgate just over 100 years ago, is built around an annual £1,000 prize, administered through the Sandgate Society, for a story or article of up to 5,000 words with a topical theme."

"This is aimed primarily at students at Kent's universities, academies and schools aged up to 25. A second prize of £250 is offered for the best such story or article for anyone over that age."

Wells was known as a keen ladies' man, and Mr Turnill, who as a cub reporter once interviewed Wells, said: "This year is the centenary of the publication of his *The New Machiavelli*.

"It advocated ideas of free love which had got him into so much hot water during his 1899-1909 years in Sandgate, which he moved to for his health."

"We hope to have a talk during the festival perhaps from a woman writer comparing attitudes then and now – especially considering that currently there seems to be a backlash against such sexual freedoms, particularly when practised by renowned politicians."

The winner will be announced in October. See www.wellsfestival.co.uk for details.

■ For news and sports headlines from Sandgate go to yourshepway.co.uk.



SCI-FI GIANT: Author HG Wells pictured outside his home in Sandgate

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News

DRAMA

Darling Buds are back on farm they call home

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A GROUP of local amateur dramatists are staging their very own production of hit show The Darling Buds of May – and they have found the “perfick” setting.

It is now 20 years since Darling Buds of May made stars of Catherine Zeta Jones and David Jason – and of course, the village of Pluckley.

Fans still flock to the village, as the show is continually repeated on TV.

To commemorate this anniversary, The Egerton Players – 25 years old this year – are staging a full-scale production of the show on the actual set of the TV series.

The audience will sit in the farmyard and the action will take place on the exact site of the TV show. There will be real chickens, and a genuine Rolls Royce to give all the colour needed to recreate an idyllic 1950s Kent.

As well as the antics of Pop, Ma and friends, there will be a live band playing 1950s classics, singing, dancing, plus singing and maypole dancing and from children at Egerton School.

The show was originally going to be staged at Elvey Farm, but last month, the owner of Buss Farm approached the group and offered to host the show on the original TV set, in Betersden.

Director Jeff Moody said: “After we were given the chance to stage it on the TV set, we realised



PERFICK: Original cast of Darling Buds of May this was going to be something very special.

“My first thought was it would be impossible as there were only 10 weeks until the opening. But when the producer and I visited the farm, we realised it was perfect.”

Buss Farm is a private house and it’s rare for people to be able to see the iconic square oast and the ramshackle farmyard which was made so famous by David Jason and friends.

The script has been taken from an original work by Darling Buds creator HE Bates, but adapted with some extra music and dancing.

The play runs from Thursday, May 19 to Sunday, May 22.

Performances are at 7.30pm, with a matinee at 2pm on Saturday. Tickets are £8 for adults, £6 for senior citizens and children under 17.

For the Saturday matinee, there are special family tickets, where two adults and two children can watch the show for £25.



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Until end of May, the centre will be offering free two-hour 'Wedding Belle' style sessions offering shoppers expert guidance on how to master the art of dressing for weddings including fashionable but comfortable footwear, hot trends for spring summer and the dos and don'ts of wedding fashion.

To celebrate the Royal Wedding weekend McArthurGlen's Ashford is offering one reader the chance to win a 'Get the



Kate Middleton Look' makeover.

The winner will enjoy a one-on-one style session with McArthurGlen's resident style consultant, Deborah Eastlake, as well as £500 of McArthurGlen shopping vouchers.

For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:

Q) Who did Kate Middleton get married to?

A. Prince William?

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C. Prince Andrew?

To enter text SHOPPING (space) answer, name and address and send to 64343. Texts cost £1 plus standard network rates. The service provider is JMedia UK Ltd, SE1 0QX, 0844 800 1188. Entries received after the closing date of May 10, 2011, will not be counted but you may still be charged. Your number may be used by KOS Media. If you do not wish to receive information on any other products or services, please text EXIT at the end of your message.

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KENT Crisps have enjoyed an "outstanding" first month's trading with 50,000 packets sold across the county at more than 100 farm shops, cafés, delis, pubs, village shops and tourist attractions.

Deliveries of the hand-cooked snacks, made from Kent potatoes, have been increased by producer Quex Foods in Birchington to meet demand for the four flavours – Oyster and Vinegar, Ashmore Cheese and Onion, Sea Salt and Bidden Cider Vinegar, and Sea Salt.

Anthony Curwen, managing direc-

tor of Birchington's Quex Foods, said: "Their popularity has been outstanding, with people appreciating the quality, provenance and localness of Kent Crisps."

"Demand has outstripped all early predictions and some stockists are placing their fourth order in as many weeks. As a result, we're sowing more delicious Kent potatoes to ensure we have plenty of supplies."

"As well as supplying Kent Crisps to our traditional Kent outlets, we have re-

sponded to many requests and are now selling our crisps into London and neighbouring counties. We have had enquiries from as far afield as Cornwall and European countries. We intend to supply anyone who wants to buy our delicious crisps which have their heart and soul in Kent, the famous Garden of England."

Quex Foods also makes a range of local produce, including extra virgin rapeseed oil, and extra virgin sunflower oil – both grown and pressed on its local farm.



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demonstrations. Keep the kids amused with quad bike rides and the funfair.

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BIG SOCIETY

People's Port decision expected in two weeks

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A DECISION over the future of the Port of Dover could be made within just weeks, says the chairman of the People's Port.

Neil Wiggins, who has been leading the 'communitisation' project alongside Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke, said although nothing was official, the Dover People's Port Trust (DPPT) believed the Government would announce changes to proposals made by the harbour board to privatise the asset, signalling the start of the community-based plans.

He said he expected an announcement in the first two weeks of May.

"Although this is speculative, I think the Government will instruct Dover Harbour Board (DHB) to change plans and make it more about communitisation."

Mr Wiggins said he believed ministers would look at changing the privatisation process



DECISION: The Port of Dover which could pave the way for a people's port.

Last year, the Labour Government announced that Dover port, which has operated as a trust since 1606 with all revenue going back into the business, was one of a list of public assets which could be sold off to help tackle the country's deficit.

DHB voluntarily submitted a scheme for consideration which looked to secure private investment, although the then government stressed it had no plans to force through privatisation.

Chief executive of the harbour board, Bob Goldfield, said the port's status as a public corporation, which could not borrow money, left it unable to fund additional capacity if needed.

But Mr Elphicke and Mr Wiggins teamed up to put in a £200 million bid to buy the port, where the district's residents could become members of the DPPT for £10.

The remainder of the funds for the purchase would come from City institutions.

DHB called the proposals "unrealistic and undeliverable". But a referendum last month saw the town vote overwhelmingly in favour of the People's Port with 5,244 for and just 113 against. The plans have also won the backing of union Unite and the Dover Society.

Mr Wiggins said: "At the referendum the message was clear and strong to Westminster about the wishes of local people. I'm looking forward for a decision being made."

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CHILD ABUSE

Jailed paedophile raped child and posted abuse images on internet

By James Reid

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A PAEDOPHILE who raped a child and posted images of the abuse on the internet has been sent to jail for 11 years.

Ian Smith, 31, of Christianfields Avenue, Gravesend, pleaded guilty to a number of offences when he appeared at Maidstone Crown Court.

On June 24 last year, officers from Kent Police's Public Protection Crime Unit arrested Smith and seized computer equipment from two addresses.

Police digital forensics experts examined the machines and found indecent images of children, and video footage of Smith raping a child.

In November, Smith was charged with rape of a child under the age of 13, engaging in sexual activity in front of a child, three counts of taking indecent images of children, six counts of possession of indecent images of children, and possession of extreme pornography.

He has been remanded in custody since pleading guilty at Maidstone Crown Court on January 26, until the sentencing hear last week.

Kent Police's Det Con Abigail Cochrane said: "This case underlines the dangers of the internet, and how its supposed anonymity can allow people the freedom to commit horrendous crimes.

"Smith abused a child for his gratification and for others who were able to watch him.

"People must understand such crimes can cause lasting harm to the victims, and serve as encouragement to others who seek to abuse children."

Det Insp Matthew Long added: "This man has raped a child and distributed indecent images of children with like-minded individuals.

"I am pleased officers have been able to help in preventing any further abuse of this young child who is now being cared for by family and victim care.

"People who abuse children and access indecent images of children will be arrested and put before the courts.

"There is no excuse for subjecting anyone to this abuse"

Smith must sign the sex offenders register and is subject to a sexual offences prevention order.

■ Police officers say anyone with informa-

tion about this type of crime can ring Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, and anyone who is involved in this type of abuse and wants to stop can visit the website stopitnow.org.

CHARITY

Canoeists help heroes

CHARLIE Hayward, 21, from Wickhambreaux and Matt Townsend, 20, from Bekesbourne, completed a canoe challenge from Birmingham to London to raise £3,000 for Help for Heroes.

The duo both attended Kent College and played hockey for Canterbury Hockey Club, and along with four other University of Birmingham students completed the 148-mile challenge on Easter Sunday when they crossed the finishing line at Westminster Bridge.

They did the journey in three-and-a-half days on the Grand Union Canal, and then the Thames.

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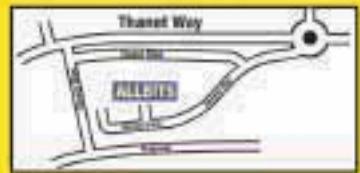
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PROPERTY

Selective licensing plans will 'blight' properties in Thanet, warns Landlords Association

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A PLAN by Thanet District Council to introduce 'selective licensing' for property landlords looks set to be challenged in front of a High Court judge.

The Southern Landlords Association said the new style of licensing for parts of Cliftonville and Margate Central would "blight" properties, tenants, and the landlords themselves.

Peter Littlewood, from the association, said: "Certain properties with many tenants over three floors do need licensing. What we are worried about is this Selective Licensing."

He said Thanet Council had told them these licences will help counter anti-social behaviour in parts of Cliftonville and Margate Central. Under the scheme all rental prop-

erties in the designated area will have to apply for a licence, paying the appropriate fees.

But Mr Littlewood said: "The council believes it can use these licences to control anti-social behaviour. If landlords are unable to prevent tenants from behaving badly, the council can take away the landlord's licence, which is nonsense. Landlords can't control what a tenant does all day long.

"This is a system that simply won't work. Thanet Council is the first in the county to use these powers and we suspect other authorities will follow.

"So now we have taken the only step open to us and that's to take this matter to the High Court and ask for a judicial review. That was done two weeks ago and we should hear if our application is successful within about another fortnight or so.

"We have done this because

we feel the council's action not only to be totally inappropriate, but also unlawful.

"Our big concern is these selective licences have not been proved to be effective against anti-social behaviour.

"Landlords are limited in what they can do to control other people's behaviour, and they certainly cannot control people outside of the rented property, for example in public places. This is the job of the council and the police.

"Additionally, these licences will blight entire areas of a town. Some mortgage companies are saying they will not lend on properties in the designated area. In one case, lenders were reluctant to continue to lend on properties already subject to a facility due for renewal in a couple of years.

"And it's not just landlords that will suffer. Tenants will

be badly affected, too. If for some reason they are evicted from a selective licensed property, there will be a tendency to assume they are especially bad, as 'even a licensed property won't take them'.

"Tragically, if this all goes ahead and spreads to other councils, the net effect will be that everyone loses."

The authority believes it is right and has dismissed the landlords' objection.

It said: "Thanet District Council is satisfied with the legality of the decision to implement a Selective Licensing Scheme in parts of Cliftonville and Margate.

"The council will continue with plans to implement this scheme and intends to contest the application for judicial review."

■ For news from this area go to yourthanet.co.uk.

ROYAL WEDDING

Kentish white wine served up for guests at royal wedding

WINE from a Kentish vineyard was set to be served to guests at the royal wedding as part of a move by Prince William and his bride Kate Middleton to show the best of Britain.

Chapel Down white wine, made in Tenterden, was expected to be on the table at Buckingham Palace during one of the private receptions after the marriage on Friday.

Such is the level of secrecy the firm itself had been kept in the dark about its role, but

sources confirmed a large order was delivered to the Queen's residence in recent weeks, said the Daily Mail.

Staff at the winery remained tight-lipped about their role in the celebrations. Their vintages can cost as little as £8.50 a bottle. "I'm sorry, but I really can't say anything" said a director.

The move is believed to be part of a bid to show off "what Britain does best" which Kate and William wanted in all aspects of the ceremony.

LITTERING

Dropped rubbish and cigarette butt costs two litterbugs dear

TWO litterbugs have been fined.

Pepe Fernandez, 26, from Longhill Avenue in Chatham, threw rubbish from the window of his car during a visit to Strood takeaway in October last year. He failed to pay a fixed penalty notice, and was taken to court, but failed to appear. He was found guilty in his absence, fined £175, ordered to pay £150 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

victim surcharge.

Tom Bradley, 18 and from Durham Avenue, Romford, threw his cigarette onto the pavement in Chatham High Street in September last year. He failed to pay a fixed penalty notice. He was then summonsed to appear in court and pleaded guilty by letter. He was fined £100, ordered to pay £150 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.



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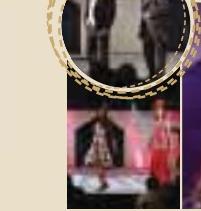
THE CATWALK

There are four magical and inspirational catwalk shows on each of the two days with wondrous collections of exquisite bridal designs, couture, ladies fashions, lingerie, swimwear, and men's attire.

On both days TV celebrity Claire Sweeney will be hosting two fabulous catwalk shows.

The shows are co-ordinated and professionally choreographed creating the 'wow factor'.

Photograph By Karl Grant, Camera Press London



LONDON 2012

Olympic dreams snapped for exhibition

By James Reid

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SPORTSMEN and women from Maidstone hoping to follow in the footsteps of Hildenborough's Kelly Holmes to become Olympic stars are featured in a new photographic exhibition.

As the ballot for Olympic tickets closed this week, the library at the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) at Maidstone exhibited pictures depicting the hopes and dreams of 2012 hopefuls from the county town.

The photographs, taken by UCA Maidstone graduate Ed Thompson, were commissioned by Maidstone Borough Council as part of its Maidstone's Dream initiative encouraging businesses to invest in young athletes.

One of those featured is UCA Rochester student, Ed Harrison, who is hoping to represent Great Britain in the 2012 Games in the 400m hurdles.

Mr Thompson said: "I used to spend a lot of time in the library at university getting inspired by books by photographers such as Diane Arbus, Robert Capa and James Nachtwey – so I'm proud to have my work showing there."

"I wanted the photos to inspire everyone that sees them. This generation gets a lot of bad press, but these young



ROLE MODELS: Photographer Ed Thompson says the dedication of Olympic hopefuls such as hurdler Ed Harrison and horserider Emily Cousins (with Solo) is inspirational.

athletes are 100 per cent committed to attaining perfection.

"It also reaffirmed what you have to do to succeed in life – there are a lot of wannabes out there expecting to do well without having any real skill or putting in much effort – but these kids push the boundaries physically and mentally, which is awesome, and they deserve to be the role models of the future."

UCA Maidstone library supervisor Lorraine West said: "It wasn't until

Maidstone Borough Council arrived to hang the photographs that we discovered they had been taken by a former student, so it is fantastic to see UCA at the heart of this exhibition."

The free exhibition runs until June 2, and is open to the public between 10am-4pm, Monday to Friday. Closed weekends and bank holidays.

■ To read sports and news headlines from the county town go to yourmaidstone.co.uk.



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AV system is as easy as 1,2,3

Alan Bullion, a former Lib Dem parliamentary candidate for Sevenoaks, party activist and Tunbridge Wells resident, explains why he'll be voting 'yes' in the AV referendum

ON May 5, I will be voting yes because I believe that switching to the alternative vote (AV) will substantially improve our outdated democracy.

In the 1950s, more than 90 per cent of us voted either Labour or Tory. The vast majority of our MPs were elected with more than 50 per cent of the vote in their constituencies.

Now that total is down to just 65 per cent. Even when you add the Liberal Democrats, the three big UK parties combined achieved their lowest share of the vote ever in the last General Election.

One in 10 of us now vote for parties outside the big three. So why shouldn't the Greens, UKIP, SNP and Plaid Cymru also have more MPs if people vote that way?

The current system no longer reflects this change in people's voting preferences. Now, less than a third of MPs are elected with a majority of the votes in their constitu-

cies. Some get in on fewer than three out of 10 votes cast. So most of us are represented by an MP we voted against.

In the closest three-way fight of the last General Election, the Labour winner got just 32.8 per cent in Hampstead and Kilburn. The second and third placed candidates were both within 1,000 votes, yet both Conservative and Lib Dem voters were effectively disenfranchised. It cannot be fair that anyone can be elected when almost 70 per cent of the electorate turned out to vote for another candidate.

And this is why I am supporting the AV referendum and why I would urge all those living in Kent to do the same. It cannot be fair that anyone can claim to have a mandate from so few voters in an area.

Giving the voter second and third preferences would enable people to be clear about whom they preferred most and increase the chance of selecting

a candidate with over 50 per cent of the vote.

The current 'First Past the Post' system is a broken one and AV is a sensible and necessary improvement that provides a mandate for those elected. The existing system encourages politicians to do just enough to get themselves elected. They can focus on their core supporters and ignore everyone else if they choose.

General elections are currently decided on a handful of swing seats, while the voters of most others are taken for granted. Under AV, we will no longer have the spectacle of safe seats and wasted votes, but more accountable and representative MPs.

Objections have been raised on the grounds of cost and confusion. Yet money has already been saved by holding the referendum on the same day as the local elections, and the extra amount often quoted for counting machines is a fallacy,

as these are not needed in Australia, where AV has been used for over 100 years.

Another objection often raised is that AV will lead to instability and coalitions. But the reverse may happen, as in Australia, where there have actually been fewer coalitions than before AV was introduced. And we still got a coalition following last May's General Election, despite the current system.

Finally, forms of AV are already used in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, as well as in elections for party leaders, company chairman and the French presidential elections. So why not in England? In fact, very few electors spoil their ballot paper, and I am sure that people will be able to fill in a few numbers.

Please, on Thursday, May 5, say yes to AV and change the system to one which gives voters the choice of who they want and all MPs to work harder to get a legitimate mandate.



6699

**Under AV
we will
no longer
have the
spectacle
of safe
seats and
wasted
votes**

KOS COMMENT

Election results will be verdict on Coalition

JUST days remain until one of the most intriguing set of local elections in recent memory finally arrive.

Kent may well be entirely run by Conservative-led councils at present, but nothing will be left to chance come polling day.

The results of Thursday's elections will provide an insight into what Kent people think of the Coalition, the spending cuts and Ed Miliband, which is why so many political big-hitters have visited the Garden of England in recent weeks.

We also have the hugely important AV referendum to think about, so make sure you use both your votes and help shape the future of our county.

Best wishes to Kate and William from Kent

THE vows have been exchanged, the bunting taken down and the last of the party food finally finished off.

Congratulations to William and Kate, and we hope all our readers made the most of the happy couple's big day, too.

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AV not perfect but it is fairer

I MUST take issue with the recent article and letters in this paper, which seek to preserve the old first-past-the-post voting system.

It was suitable in the 1950s when nine out of 10 people voted for the Labour or Conservative parties in response to their then different philosophies on how to make Britain better.

But now the old Lib-Lab-Con parties have broadly the same views on issues – in favour of ‘equality’: fighting in America’s colonial wars; and remaining in, and paying more to, the EU – a growing proportion of electors are not represented by the old establishment.

The Alternative Vote system would not be as democratic as proportional representation, which for instance would give Ukip 17 MPs rather than the none at the last general election, but it would reflect public opinion better.

Surely it cannot be right that all the councillors

in Tunbridge Wells are Conservative? Many people there voted Labour or Ukip but are not represented at all. Even on the marginal Dartford and Gravesham councils there are wards where more people voted for parties other than the ‘winning’ one that the councillor now installed represents.

This encourages people not to vote at all; which leads to corruption, and disdain among the elite for the public.

**Quentin Williamson,
Dartford**

It's time to say yes to change

IN addition to voting for the usual suspects, this year, for the first time ever, people have a chance to vote for a game changer, an actual, favourable, change in the system.

Voting under the AV system in will mean we can vote for the parties we prefer, in order, on the ballot paper. This gives you more power as a voter. The AV system is already in use in most political parties and in trade unions, too.

It's not rocket science, but what it does allow is a voter to express your real preferences – rather than vote X to keep out Y or “it's only a two-horse race”, etc.

AV opens the system up a bit. And if your top preference doesn't win enough votes, then your second preference will count instead.

It is definitely a step in the right direction and a radical, much needed, overdue change in our voting system.

AV keeps extremists out (contrary to scaremongering), gives voters a bit more power and will help end the ‘safe seat’ culture more quickly.

So after Iraq, PFI, the creeping privatisation of health, the hundreds of billions given to the banks, the deficit being used to bash us over the head, record inequality under the last government, and increasing under this one, the rich becoming richer and taxed less, the decimation of jobs and services in Medway, wouldn't you like a little more say?

Vote yes to AV on May 5, you know it makes sense.

**Trish Marchant,
Gillingham**

New system is lesser evil

WHILE AV has been described as a ‘miserable little compromise’ and I admit the vote is between a deeply unfair and disproportionate system where you can vote once, and a deeply unfair and disproportionate system where you can express your preferences, I am still convinced we should vote Yes in the AV referendum.

Our democracy is broken and AV is only a very small step to true reform and a modern democracy. But unless we are able to take this small step, progress is likely to be stopped in its tracks. Those desperate to hang on to our discredited political system will herald a No vote as a desire to stick with a sham system that allows government to be elected by just 22 per cent of the population.

Under FPTP, most people end up voting for a candidate who loses, meaning most are not represented by a candidate that they support. Under AV a candidate needs to achieve 50

per cent of the vote, so most voters would be represented by someone they support.

Claims AV is expensive and too complicated are simply untrue. There is no need for expensive machines – this claim by the No campaign is not based on fact and has been widely discredited. AV is straightforward to count.

No campaigners also claim people can't cope with using 1,2 and 3 to rank their candidates in order of preference, a claim that is frankly insulting. Perhaps the reason to vote No might be an inability to count to three?

What AV will achieve is being able to express a preference that has a 50:50 chance of counting. It will make a small improvement to our discredited electoral system and it should be seen as the first step on a road to real democracy.

To consider just how bad the FPTP system is, just consider how we elect the new bodies in this country: the London, Scottish and Welsh assemblies as well as MEPs are elected proportionally. The Mayor of London and the leader of the Labour party are elected using

AV. Astonishingly even David Cameron was elected as leader of the Conservatives using a form of AV – he came second in the first round of voting.

Before you vote, ask yourself what type of electoral system you think will give us the type of politics we have seen for the last 100 years. If you want change, you need to vote for it.

Stuart Jeffery, chair of Kent Green Party but writing in a personal capacity

Give us action Mr Cameron

I SEE Mr Cameron is coming out with a vast amount of angry words about a variety of subjects, such as quotas on immigrants, judges acting wrongly, no extra money for the EU, etc, but when it comes to action he is like a piece of wet lettuce.

Time after time he backtracks on promises hoping the people will not notice, but that really is a vain hope. He is being labelled as doing more U-turns than a learner driver. The latest is one he has tried before in taking on the EU.

Last time he came back with his tail between his legs although he was crowing about success. This time will be no different.

What he doesn't seem to realise is that the people of this country are right behind him and would like him to actually achieve something instead of coming out with all the lame excuses going.

We know you can talk Mr Cameron, but it's action the people want, so start putting our country first.

**RE Tucker,
Sheerness**

Celebrate our patron saint

THERE is a beautiful 19th century icon of our patron saint, St George on display at The Centre for Peace in the Old High Street, Folkestone, for St George's Day.

St George was a Turkish Roman Legionnaire famed for, among his many good deeds, destroying a much-leared dragon and refusing to give up his faith in Christ. There is a very large altar-piece containing many panels showing his life in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

**Andrew Welcome,
by email**

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How the Halifax has changed its policy

QI am 27 and in the medical profession. Because it takes years to qualify, I have almost no savings. Starting pay is not very high, either. On the bright side, earnings can grow quite rapidly after a few years. For all these reasons, my fiancée and I want an interest-only mortgage to buy our first home. When my earnings improve, we can start to pay off the capital, or we may sell and move to a new home, depending on my job. We thought we were going to be able to get a mortgage from Halifax, but we now understand it will not offer interest-only home loans.

AHalifax changed its policy at the beginning of April. Previously, all you had to do to get an interest-only mortgage was give a vague assurance that you had some plan to pay off the capital eventually. Now you need to come up with written evidence that you have stocks and shares, or Isa savings, or a valuable life assurance policy, or even the title deeds to a second home! In other words, the only way to get an interest-only home loan is to prove that you do not really need one because you have pots of spare cash elsewhere. Halifax is not alone. Other lenders such as Nationwide, Lloyds TSB and Royal Bank of Scotland have also tightened their rules or scrapped interest-only home loans completely. The lenders are under pressure from the Financial Services Authority, which in turn is doing the bidding of the government. They reckon interest-only loans are riskier than those where the capital is repaid from the start, so they are trying to make it far harder to get one. And the signs are that things will get even tougher over the next year or two. Right now, there are some interest-only loans still available, but many are limited to just 60pc of the property price. Santander, Principality Building Society and Natwest are among those that will go to 75pc. And ING Direct (www.ingdirect.co.uk) will lend up to 80pc. If you cannot raise enough for the deposit, you cannot have an interest-only mortgage. Dropping this ambition will open the door to a wider choice, though. The Principality, Yorkshire Building Society and HSBC all have variable interest schemes offering up to 85pc of a property's value.

QI am thinking of investing in Nationwide's Protected Equity Bond and I would appreciate your views. The bond yields 7pc, but it is linked to the stock market, which makes me wary.

AMy view is that this is a pretty dismal investment! Your money is tied up for six years, and the amount you get back at the end does not look impressive. Your original capital is guaranteed. On top of that, you will get at least 7pc. But that is 7pc spread over six years – not 7pc a year. The true annual return is only 1.13pc.

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Of course, you could do better. But Nationwide has capped the amount of profit you can make, limiting it to 6.99pc a year. In the current climate, that would be a decent return. However, share prices would have to soar by 50pc to levels they have never reached before to get that 6.99pc a year.

QMy sister is 57 and due to ill health she is now able to work only a few hours a week from home. She belonged to pension schemes in two previous employments. Do the rules allow her to withdraw capital from those schemes? Or could she apply to start her pensions early?

AIt is very unlikely your sister could withdraw her pension savings unless, perhaps, the amounts involved are very small and would provide no worthwhile pension. Broadly speaking, pension rules do not permit withdrawing money we have paid towards retirement. She may well be able to start her pension early, though. She is above the minimum job pension age, which is now 55. Even if her pensions are scheduled to begin at 60, it is likely there is flexibility to cover ill health. And she could draw part of her pensions as a lump sum.

QI am hoping to move and may need a small mortgage, but I am 72. Do any lenders allow borrowers of my age?

AThere is no rule against having a mortgage at your age but you will not get special treatment, either. Lenders will need to be certain that you will have enough income to make repayments and cover normal living costs. You may need to think about an equity release mortgage instead. This gives the lender a stake in your property. For this or for a normal mortgage, see a local broker who can go over your income and advise you on how much a lender might offer.

QAs the Government says it will tighten the law on cyclists, do any insurance policies cover riders involved in accidents with other people? I am only aware of policies for theft.

ASpecialist insurance company Cycleguard (0845 408 1811) offers up to £5m of cover for injuries to third parties, as well as the usual insurance against theft, damage and so on.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.



KEEPING HOLD OF CASH: The Link network has reported a drop in withdrawals from its machines over Easter compared with last year

Easter sees a drop in cash machine withdrawals

LESS money was withdrawn from cash machines run by the Link network over the Easter weekend than during the same bank holiday last year.

A total of £1.66bn was taken out over the four days, compared with £1.69bn last Easter. However, given the high rate of inflation, it means

that in real terms there was a fall of nearer 5pc in the amount withdrawn.

"Transactions were slightly up but the amount withdrawn was slightly down," said a spokesman for Link, which has nearly 65,000 machines in its network. "Balance inquiries over this period did go up by about 12pc, though. This is most likely due to the

fact that it is the end of the month and people are being prudent about their spending, and the fact that last year Easter was at the start of the month."

It is also possible that the Royal Wedding, which has resulted in two four-day bank holidays on successive weekends, has encouraged people to stagger their spending.

Don't be caught out by 'fronting'

LESS than half the population know that a fraudulent practice used to drive down car insurance costs is illegal.

Fronting, where a less risky driver is used as the main name on an insurance policy instead of the actual main driver, who is typically younger and therefore would be more expensive to insure, is a serious offence.

The younger driver is then typically added to the policy as a named driver, despite the fact they cover by far the greater mileage in the insured vehicle.

Although it can reduce premiums by hundreds of pounds, it can also result in claims being rejected and criminal charges.

Parents fronting for their children has become more common in the light of rising insurance premiums and increasing pressures on household budgets.

Research from Moneysupermarket.com has revealed that one in 10 drivers have "fronted" on their car insurance and one in five people wrongly believe fronting is legal, while 36pc admitted they were clueless about the legislation.

Peter Harrison, car insurance expert at Moneysupermarket, said: "It

By Ed Foss
MyMoney 24 writer

is deeply worrying how many people are taking the risk by 'fronting' on their car insurance, especially as this practice is illegal and will be classified as fraud by an insurer. It is also concerning so many drivers think fronting is legal or are simply unaware of its legality.

"Any motorist falsely claiming to be the main driver of a vehicle is committing fraud, and taking a serious risk. Despite the attraction of saving money in the short-term there will be serious repercussions if they are caught as their insurance will be invalidated.

"Further ramifications could result in a younger driver ending up in court being charged with driving without insurance."

Mr Harrison said it was not surprising some motorists would consider fronting as motoring was very expensive for younger drivers.

With annual premiums for an 18-year-old averaging about £1,271.50, it was a way to save money, he added.

"This is a false economy, however, as the costs clearly outweigh the risk of being caught and ending up with

invalidated insurance. There are easier ways to reduce the cost of car insurance; using price comparison sites to shop around and look for the best deal will save you £282 on average."

The Association of British Insurer's tips for getting cheaper motor insurance legally are:

- Shop around as premium rates will vary between insurers. Comparison websites may also be able to help. Insurance brokers can also assist, especially if you have a specialist need.
- If purchasing a car, think about the insurance costs, as smaller lower-powered cars will be cheaper to insure. This is especially important for young, newly qualified drivers.
- Consider taking the Pass Plus post driving test course, especially if you are a young driver.
- Fit an approved immobiliser, as this can often earn you a discount on the premium.
- Consider opting for a higher voluntary excess, as the higher the excess, the lower the premium.

Other tactics include buying online, considering a mileage limit or only driving at certain hours of the day, adding a more experienced named driver to your policy.

News

Cheaper weddings are on the increase



Best buys

Check out the best mortgage deals



On the blogs

Peter Sharkey:

FSTE 100 – enjoy the ride

Top rate being cut from popular current account

By Adam Aitken

MyMoney 24 editor

ONE of the country's biggest banks is shaking up a key current account.

Lloyds TSB – which is part-owned by the taxpayer – has announced plans to axe the Vantage account's market-leading 4pc rate on balances between £5,000 and £7,000.

Instead, the top rate on offer will be 3pc on balances between £3,000 and £5,000.

The bank said the changes, which will come into effect at the end of June, would simplify the product.

"We are simplifying rates and broadening accessibility to customers, most notably those with lower balances," said the bank's Philip Robinson.

"Customers have the potential to earn up to £148 each year by opting for the right current account."

He added that unlike some deals offered by other banks, Vantage was available to existing and new customers.

Andrew Hagger, an analyst at Moneynet.co.uk, said: "This is disappointing news for those customers keeping balances of between £5,000 and £7,000 in their current accounts.

"The plus point is that Vantage customers with balances up to £1,000 will receive a credit interest rate of 1.5pc rather than the derisory 0.1pc seen at present.

"However, current accounts are not the ideal place for large credit balances. It's better to keep your surplus funds in a specific savings vehicle – not only does this give you greater choice of a more suitable home for your nest egg, it also eliminates the temptation to dip into it if it's not sitting in your current account."

The decision by Lloyds TSB comes hot on the heels of the provisional report by the Independent Commission on Banking (ICB), which decried the lack of competition on the high street.

It is just the latest in a series of changes within the current account market – and it's also not the first significant move by Lloyds TSB.

"Over the past 18 months, there have been a number of changes to current accounts, mostly based around the fees charged for authorised and unauthorised overdrafts," said Mr Hagger.

"Last December, Lloyds TSB introduced a £5 monthly charge for customers who use an agreed overdraft limit.

"It was an unpopular move, but fortunately one that hasn't been copied by any of the other



CHANGING MARKET: Major high street bank Lloyds TSB is shaking up one of its key current accounts

banking heavyweights – yet."

Louise Holmes, a spokesman for Moneyfacts.co.uk, said: "Credit interest rates on current accounts are generally disappointing, with many 'free banking' deals paying 0pc.

"Larger banks have recently been accused of stifling the current account market, with the ICB setting proposals to improve competition in the marketplace.

"It will be interesting to see whether these proposals make providers amend their rates over the coming months and also whether banks will try to persuade more customers to switch to fee-charging (packaged) accounts."

Mr Hagger, at Moneynet, said the market was too complex and was one of the main reasons why most customers did not bother to switch accounts.

"If the industry really wants to encourage peo-

ple to move banks then it needs to strip out some of the complex and restrictive conditions, as well as introducing a standard charging tariff to enable meaningful comparisons to be made," he said.

"If you're looking to transfer your bank account, you should look for one that reflects the way you run your account – maybe with a cheaper charging structure for overdrafts or a better deal on credit balances.

"Or perhaps it is as simple as looking for a provider that will do the basics without messing up."

Mr Hagger said the best buys at the moment included First Direct, the Co-operative Bank and Smile for overdrafts; Halifax and Santander for credit balances; and the Halifax Ultimate Reward account in the packaged accounts category.

■ **For the best deals, check out the best-buy tables at www.mymoney24.co.uk**

Encouraging news in mortgage market as loans increase

THERE has been some encouraging news in the mortgage market, with the number of loans made for house purchases hitting an eight-month high in March.

The British Bankers' Association (BBA) said more than 31,600 loans were approved for people buying new homes during the month – an increase of 5pc on February.

However, the figures are still low on a longer-term basis.

The BBA said that although gross

mortgage lending had held up "fairly well" in recent months, the total of £7.7bn advanced to consumers in March was lower than the six-month average of £7.9bn a month, and more than 10pc lower than the amount lent in March 2010.

Separate data published by buy-to-let mortgage specialist Paragon showed that nearly half of landlords reported tenant demand rose during the first three months of 2011.

The quarterly snapshot of the

private rented sector and buy-to-let market showed that only 5pc of landlords saw falling demand. Paragon chief executive Nigel Terrington said: "Landlords are experiencing high levels of tenant demand, and this is expected to rise due to a number of factors, including social housing reforms, lifestyle choices, low numbers of first-time buyers and wider demographic changes.

"We are seeing evidence that strong tenant demand is feeding

through to higher rents. A lack of available mortgage finance is restricting the sector's ability to expand and needs to be addressed to create a healthy and vibrant buy-to-let market in the UK. Landlords have experienced a positive start to the year.

Tenant demand continues to strengthen, yields are rising and confidence is high. Prospects for landlords in the private rented sector are high and they can expect this to continue throughout, and beyond, 2011."

PICK OF THE WEEK

In association with the experts at Moneyfacts.co.uk, we highlight some of the best new products launched this week.

Savings: Principality Building Society

Principality has repriced its Fixed-Rate Bond Issue 198. This two-year bond pays an annual rate of 4pc. A monthly interest option is also available at 3.93pc. Savers can invest between £500 and £2m and further additions can be made whilst the issue remains open. The account can be operated by savers of all ages in branch and by post.

Why is it good? There is the option to access funds early, although this is upon closure of the account and is subject to 180 days' loss of interest.

Savings: The AA

The AA has launched a two-year fixed-rate cash Isa paying 3.5pc. Savers can invest a minimum of £1 and further additions can be made whilst the issue remains open. Early access is allowed, although this is subject to 180 days' loss of interest in year one and 90 days' loss in year two. The account is available to savers aged 16 and over, operated by post only.

Why is it good? The AA has made its debut in the fixed-term Isa market with a competitive rate that sits just below the current market leader in the two-year Isa field. The ability to make withdrawals during the term will be welcomed by investors, especially as this is becoming a rare feature on fixed-rate products.

Mortgages: Cumberland Building Society

The Cumberland has launched a three-year fixed-rate mortgage for first and second-time buyers at 3.89pc, which runs until June 2014. The maximum loan-to-value (LTV) is 60pc, although customers living in West Northumberland, Dumfriesshire, Cumbria and North Lancashire can borrow up to 75pc of a property's value. There is a fee of £699. There is also the option to make overpayments of up to £5,000 a year.

Why is it good? This deal is highly competitive and sits comfortably in the three-year fixed market. Borrowers in the local area can benefit from a higher maximum LTV. Customers who open or hold existing Cumberland Building Society current accounts will receive £100 rebates.

Investments: Legal & General

The Six-Year Growth Deposit Bond 7 requires a minimum investment of £500 over a six-year term. On maturity, the bond pays either a guaranteed minimum return of 15pc or 100pc of the growth in the FTSE 100 Index, up to a maximum of 50pc, plus the original investment is returned. Offer closes June 17.

Why is it good? This latest issue of this bond is a duplicate of the previous issue in both participation rates and minimum guaranteed return. Once again, cautious investors will be reassured by the presence of a small guaranteed minimum return.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

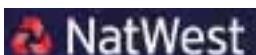
THE Government's employment tribunal system reforms have been criticised by the Institute of Directors.

Prime Minister David Cameron has unveiled a raft of measures he hopes will stem the recent rise in claims, which rocketed to 236,000 last year, up 56 per cent on 2009.

But the IoD said the "timid" proposals do not go far enough and called for stronger "strike out" powers to be introduced.

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Business Week

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North-South divide turned on head by first-quarter figures

By Simon Robinson

simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

THE recession continues to take its toll on firms in the South East, the latest administration figures have revealed.

Receivership statistics revealed 75 firms across the region entered into administration in Q1 (the first quarter) this year, up from 57 during the same period in 2010.

The 32 per cent increase bucks the national trend, which saw an overall eight per cent fall.

Only East Anglia was harder hit, with the region suffering a 41 per cent increase in financially-stricken companies that were forced to the wall, although in real terms the administration numbers were far smaller than seen in the South East (excluding London), rising from 17 in Q1 2010 to 24 this year.

The South East's services sector suffered a huge decline last year, accounting for 40 per cent of receivership appointments.

The region's property and construction sector contributed to 29 per cent of the administration figures, followed by retail and wholesale (16 per cent), manufacturing and engineering (11 per cent) and other (four per cent).

Matt Wild, Partners at Baker Tilly Restructuring and Recovery LLP, which collated the data, said there had been a specific squeeze on these sectors as contracts declined or ceased altogether and more services were taken in house.

This squeeze was felt further when the effects of the harsh winter weather conditions of Q4 and the tightening of consumer spend post-



DIFFICULT TIMES: The latest figures have shown administration is on the up in the South East, bucking the national trend

Christmas were factored in. "These figures show a reversal in fortunes when comparing the North and South in previous quarters, but it may be too soon to say whether this is an emerging trend," said Wild.

"Traditionally the South East has been the first to recover alongside London as the services sector is strongly predominant in the region.

"Q1 is typically a challenging time of the year for many businesses. Combined with other oth-

BREWERY

Cheers and beers after targets hit

THE Royal Tunbridge Wells Brewing Company celebrated its first-year anniversary in style after hitting its targets.

The new microbrewery produced six beers in 2010, which have been sold in more than 200 pubs across Kent, East Sussex and more recently London.

Owner Simon Lewis invited ale fans into the brewery for a free tour and treated them to a complimentary drink in return for some assistance with bottling duties.

Looking ahead to the second year of business, Lewis said he has plans to upgrade the brewery and increase the capacity to make sure that the business does not run out of beer.

He added: "Our other big aim for our second year is to get one or more of our beers recognised with a prize or two. We have put some of our beers forward to various national beer competitions and our fingers are crossed that we might win an award."

For more information visit www.royaltunbridgewellsbrewing.co.uk



CREAM OF THE CROP: Sally Newall

FOOD

Increase in reach for ice-cream firm

A LUXURY ice cream producer has expanded its availability across the South East.

Simply Ice Cream, based in Ashford, can now be found in stores across the region as well as selected Waitrose and John Lewis branches.

Owner and founder Sally Newall said their company was also working on expanding its product range as well as its reach.

"We are delighted with the following our ice cream has been generating across the South East," she said.

"Our growing team is always working on new flavour ideas based on feedback and requests from fans; we even offer bespoke flavour making for special events and companies."

The Simply Ice Cream range includes nearly 30 flavours, including the award winning Heavenly Honeycomb Crunch, Divine Chocolate, Brown Bread and Stem Ginger and Marmalade.

The whole range is suitable for vegetarians and all but four flavours are gluten free.

ACCOUNTANTS

Values match-up prompts merger

TWO firms of chartered accountants have merged to form BSR Bespoke LTD.

The deal between Bespokes of Hildenborough and Buckland Steadman & Roberts of Tunbridge Wells was completed on Monday, April 11.

Managing director Paul Matthews said the merger suited both parties.

"Both Bespokes and Buckland, Steadman & Roberts had a strong ethos of attention to detail and created packages of services for each client, according to their own specific needs. There was a clearly a match on traditional customer values," he said.

"We hope to now complement that with investment in IT systems to provide a transparent and more efficient service to all our clients."

"Our aim is now to ensure we not only meet our clients expectations but surpass them."

BSR Bespoke employs 26 members of staff across its two sites.

Visit bsrbaccountants.co.uk for more information.

COMMENT

DURING a bank-holiday outing to the capital last week I was able to catch a glimpse of the vast range of gawdy 'commemorative' memorabilia on sale from those tourist-targeting All-Things-Britain-on-a-T-shirt booths.

Among the items on offer at a stall near the London Eye was a whole host of William and Kate royal wedding gifts and goods.

There were beach towels, plates, mugs, badges, flags and pretty much anything an overseas monarchy-lover could be enticed into swapping for their freshly-acquired UK coinage.

The speed and willingness of these tourists to get their hands on a slice of royal-wedding rubbish hit home to me how well loved Prince William and the rest of our royal family are among our non-UK cousins.

While it is difficult to accurately quantify how much money the royals are worth to the UK economy purely in terms of attracting tourists to the capital, and to a smaller degree to the rest of the country, surely it is more than they cost.

Furthermore, the royal stock is rising, buoyed by Prince William's wedding. As the country struggles to drag itself from recession, every pound that brings into the country, from tour bus-tickets to fridge magnets, is a step in the right direction.

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**Furthermore,
the royal
stock is
rising, buoyed
by Prince
William's
wedding**



Directors' chief calls for radical change to the tribunal system

By **Simon Robinson**

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THE Government's proposed employment tribunal system reforms have been dubbed as flawed by the Institute of Directors.

Prime Minister David Cameron wants to bar workers from being able to take out unfair dismissal claims for the first two years – doubling the current one-year constraint.

A tribunal claim fee – ending the boom of 'no win no fee' cases – and moves to trim the length of the claims process have also been discussed.

Government hopes the measures will cut the record rise in tribunal claims, which rose to 236,000 last year, up 56 per cent on 2009.

But the IoD said it does not believe the proposals will achieve any significant reduction in the number of weak complaints, or costs to business in terms of management time and lawyers' fees.

IoD South director, Rodger Broad, said: "Being timid will get us nowhere. Employment tribunals need radical reform. Unfortunately, the Government's proposals, although well intentioned, will do little to tackle the problem of weak claims."

"We need stronger 'strike out' powers for tribunals, universal employee deposits and compulsory pre-claim conciliation. These changes would reduce the number of vexatious claims and the associated costs to business in terms of management time and lawyers' fees."



STRONGER: Rodger Broad says current plans for tribunal reform are not enough

Broad said that 35 per cent of IoD members have had a tribunal claim against them, but of those just nine per cent were won by the claimant.

In 30 per cent of cases the employer won, while in 13 per cent the claim was withdrawn and in 40 per cent of cases the claim was settled without a tribunal ruling.

Broad added: "These figures further support concerns expressed by employers that many complaints are without merit, but that very often employers will choose to settle rather than face the time, expense and stress involved

in defending a claim at tribunal.

"We are pleased the Government has recognised there is a problem, but the system will continue to be clogged up with weak claims unless ministers take a more ambitious attitude to tribunal reform.

"This system will also suffer as the Government is creating new grounds for bringing claims through abolition of the Default Retirement Age.

"The net result may well be a continuing increase in the number of claims year on year, which makes it even more important that the Government revises its proposals so that we have a tribunal system that works for both sides."

The IoD has proposed a three-point plan for reform of the system:

- Pre-claim conciliation should be compulsory unless both sides decline it. Refusing or failing to engage reasonably in the process should be penalised using the range of sanctions available to tribunals (i.e. striking out, cost orders, reduction of any award).

- More claims should be prevented from going ahead by (a) requiring ACAS or some other independent body to reject claims that appear to be unfounded or invalid; by (b) raising the threshold for an acceptable claim; and (c) by requiring rather than just allowing employment tribunals to strike out claims that fall below that threshold.

- Employee deposits need to be compulsory to deter spurious claims. Access to justice will not be jeopardised if deposits are only taken after an employee loses their case.

Attractions on the short-list for tourism awards

NEVER Castle, Chatham Historic Dockyard and Bluewater are among the Kent attractions and businesses short-listed for a group travel award.

A dozen organisations across the county will be crossing their fingers ahead of the national finals, held in London on Friday, June 10.

Tourism chiefs at Visit Kent said they were delighted with Kent's haul of nominations.

Head of marketing Lynnette Crisp said: "It is incredible to have so many of our county's top businesses and Visit Kent investors among the finalists."

"This is a further vote of confidence in Kent and Medway from the frontline



NOMINATED: Hever Castle for the quality of its guided tours

people hosting groups of visitors to our attractions and taking advantage of our transport providers, facilities, accommodation, and leisure and hospitality businesses.

"As a public private partnership promoting our county at home and

overseas, we have been deliberately growing our group travel market. We have been researching what group travel organisers need to make their visits successful for their groups and working with our investors to meet those needs."

NOMINEES

- Chatham Historic Dockyard – Best Attraction for Group Visits (more than two hours)
- Canterbury – Most Group-Friendly UK Destination
- Bluewater – Best Shopping Venue for Groups
- Holiday Inn and Jarvis – Most Group-Friendly Hotel Chain or Group
- University of Kent – Best University Accommodation for Groups
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Driven garage boss's business shunted up a gear after move

THE first big challenge an aspiring entrepreneur must overcome is leaving the safety of gainful employment.

A solid business idea and plan are important, as is the determination to make it work, but many would-be self-sustained self-employed fail to break free from the daily grind.

Mechanic Derek Pestridge took the plunge in 1983, exchanging the title of employee to independent garage-owner, a move his father-in-law dubbed as "barmy".

In February 2009, D&D Autos moved from a collection of buildings in Victoria Road, Ashford, and now operates out of large, modern, purpose-built premises. The business has almost doubled its turnover during the past five years.

Sitting in Derek's first-floor office, the experienced mechanic said the decision to become his own boss was an easy one to make.

"At the time I had a perfectly good job as a mechanic," he said. "I had a company vehicle and was given petrol money every week."

"I also had three children and a mortgage, but I gave it up to go self-employed, which my father-in-law thought was barmy."

"I was not set on making a fortune, but to just make a living so I could support my family."

"I felt where I was working I would be doing the same thing in 10 years' time, so I needed to move on. I had to either get out of the industry or do something on my own."

Derek saw his chance after spotting an empty garage in Victoria Road while out jogging one afternoon.

Derek put together a business plan and approached the bank looking for an £8,000 loan. They lent him £6,000.

Starting out involved working every role from receptionist and mechanic to finance director and complaints manager. However, the business soon began to grow.

"It was slow, steady growth," said Derek. "At the beginning if I could do three jobs in a day I felt this was a real achievement. I used to go home thinking I did well if I took home £200."

"After a year of trading I was able to get a person in to take on the ordering of parts, sort bills out and answer the phone, and it grew from there. We've now got 17 full-time staff."

Derek puts his success down to training and a dislike of confrontation.

He said: "I have only ever been a mechanic. I started off as an apprentice when I was 15 and after my five-year course was over I went on to work for main dealerships, first British Leyland and then Volkswagen Audi."

"During that time I did a lot of manufacturer training courses and entered a lot of competitions, which I did very well at. This gave me the confidence to go it alone as I knew there wasn't a single job I couldn't do on a Volkswagen Audi."

"Another reason it worked was that I'm very conscientious of the work that I do. I hated confrontation and I hated getting things wrong."

"While I've got used to confrontation over the years, I still don't like it and it's still the case that if I get it right I have a happy customer. It's all a question of making sure you get things right first time."

"When I first started I rented a building from a guy called Cecil Wraight and he was very helpful. He used to say 'Derek, whatever you do – you've got to give personal service' and he got two signs made for me, one of which said 'personal service' and I have still got it today."

"I always believed that's absolutely right. If you give a personal service, it goes a long way."

The BIG Interview

Mechanic Derek Pestridge has grown his Ashford-based company D&D Autos into a well-oiled machine that boasts a turnover in excess of £1.2 million. He spoke to Business Week editor Simon Robinson about how his dislike of confrontation helped to shape his customer-satisfaction policy.



WINNERS: Garage-owner Derek Pestridge with sons Matthew (left) and Richard Pestridge

Derek's dedication to his customers has seen the firm celebrate double success after winning in 2010 and 2011 the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce award for Excellence in Customer Service, something he is very proud of.

He said: "Customer service means a lot to us. The garage industry has got quite a bad reputation, although in recent years this has improved. Most of our customers come from word-of-mouth recommendation, and those recommendations have come from satisfied customers, many of whom have been with the garage since we started."

"Our business has built up a reputation for providing a personal service, giving advice that can be trusted and delivering high-quality results at a price the customer can afford."

Among Derek's employees are his wife Margaret, his two sons, Matthew and Richard, and daughter Lorraine.

Derek's wife has been involved with the business from the start, primarily doing the book-keeping. However, it was never his intention for his children to join the firm.

"At first I didn't want any of the family to work for the business, but now it's very important to me that they're all here."

"Matthew brought it on himself to be a mechanic and enrolled at Canterbury College to do a one-year course."

"He had one day a week at our site doing work experience and I assumed after one year he

Folkestone firm has Designs on more employees

A TOY manufacturer is set to recruit more staff after completing a £650,000 expansion of its office, warehouse and distribution centre.

West Design, based in Folkestone, undertook the 15,000 sq ft expansion of its UK headquarters to stock a wider range of products – also including arts, crafts and stationery – and improve on customer service.

Managing director Mike Bray said: "We celebrate our 125th anniversary in 2013 and this investment underlines our determination to build on our reputation as the market leader in a hugely competitive industry."

"This is an ideal location for us, but our rapid growth since we moved in six years ago meant that we needed more space to enable our success to continue."

"West Design is a family-owned and run business. We employ 130 staff, 45 in Folkestone and the rest at our manufacturing centres in the Midlands and Plymouth."

"Once our extension here is finished, we will be recruiting extra staff."

The extension was built by Ashford-based Directline Structures and proved a stern test of their skills.

The design caused a few headaches for the family firm as it included the erection of two 50m-wide steel rafters – the longest and heaviest ever lifted into the place during the company's 22-year and 180-project history.



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Bu Samra gas tanker sets Isle of Grain port records

A HUGE gas tanker docked at the Isle of Grain last week, marking another milestone for the LNG (liquefied natural gas) terminal.

The Bu Samra – which comes in at an impressive 350m from bow to stern and can hold up to 266,000 cubic metres of gas – became the largest ever vessel to stop off at the north Kent port.

It is only since the commissioning of the second jetty at the Isle of Grain in December, 2010, that the terminal has been able to accept these vessels.

Peel Ports Medway managing director Paul Kavanagh said: "We are absolutely delighted to welcome Bu Samra to Peel Ports Medway, with it being both the largest-ever vessel and biggest LNG vessel to visit the Medway."

"This demonstrates Peel Ports Medway's capability of handling vessels of this scale and is also significant given it's the first Q-Max carrier to arrive at Isle of Grain LNG following the recent Phase III expansion process."

The Isle of Grain LNG terminal, Britain's first modern LNG importation terminal, has the largest tank capacity of any British LNG importation terminal – one million cubic metres.

UK LNG for National Grid director Peter Boreham said: "This marks another milestone in the



RECORD-BREAKER: The Bu Samra

history of the Grain LNG terminal, which has the capacity to supply 20 per cent of annual UK gas demand.

"The most recent capacity expansion at Grain, delivered on time and to budget, means our customers can use the world's largest LNG carriers to deliver gas in to the LNG terminal with the UK's largest tank capacity."

Centrica Energy managing director Mark Hanafin added: "Liquefied Natural Gas will play an increasingly important role in helping to meet the UK's future energy needs, so it's vital that we have terminals like this that have the capability to receive large carriers such as the Q-Max."

Centrica will this week sign a deal with Qatar Gas to deliver 2.4 million tonnes of LNG every year via the Isle of Grain, enough to meet the needs of around two and a half million UK households."

New framework to fine the firms that fail to file their tax returns on time

By Simon Robinson

simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

REVENUE and Customs bosses have introduced a new penalty framework for businesses who file their tax returns late.

The new system will see an initial £100 fixed penalty issued to firms who are one day late in filling out and filing the necessary paperwork, while companies who are three months late will face a fine of £10 per day, until the return is filed, for a maximum of 90 days (£900).

Nigel Moon, senior tax manager at Reeves, which has offices in Chatham and Canterbury, said the goalposts had been moved.

"For tax returns up to 2009/10 the rules effectively capped a late filing penalty at the amount of tax unpaid at January 31, and we have used this rule on our clients' behalf to good effect where returns have been unavoidably delayed."

"However, we will find this route blocked in the future as a new penalties regime will now apply to any late tax return for 2010/11 onwards."

"Under the new system taxpayers who have not filed within six months of the filing date will face a minimum penalty of £1,300 increasing to £1,600 if they are twelve months late."

"In addition, there may be tax geared penalties for late submission – and further tax geared penalties if tax is paid late. Clearly, it is now more important than ever that taxpayers submit their tax returns on time."



PAYING THE PENALTY

LATE FILING PENALTIES

- **ONE DAY LATE** – an initial £100 fixed penalty. This applies even if there is no tax to pay or the tax due has been paid on time.
- **THREE MONTHS LATE** – an automatic daily penalty also arises. The penalty is calculated at £10 per day, until the return is filed, for a maximum of 90 days (up to £900).
- **SIX MONTHS LATE** – a further penalty arises calculated at five per cent of the tax liability on the return or £300 if this is higher.
- **TWELVE MONTHS LATE** – an additional penalty arises calculated at five per cent of the tax liability on the return or £300 if this is higher. In particularly serious cases, the penalty could be as much as 70-100 per cent of the tax.

LATE PAYMENT PENALTIES

- **THIRTY DAYS LATE** – an initial penalty of five per cent of the tax unpaid at that date.
- **SIX MONTHS LATE** – a further penalty of five per cent of the tax that is still unpaid.
- **TWELVE MONTHS LATE** – an additional further penalty of five per cent of the tax that is still unpaid.
- These penalties are additional to the interest that will be charged on all outstanding amounts, including unpaid penalties, until payment is received.

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Dr Wayne Wright, managing director of WSQ Solutions, offers tips on how to help your operation make money

traits that distinguishes the best businesses from the average. These are:

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- and getting things done for their customers is critical. Their customers trust these businesses to do what they say – not just have it as part of literature or a customer charter.
- Clear strategy – they know where they are going: The direction of the business is clear, not ambiguous, and communicated throughout the organisation, even to suppliers and customers. When you have a clear vision it is easier to engage and motivate your key assets – your people.
- Everyone in the organisation is very clear about how their work will help move the business forward: Each individual

in the company has their own personal goals for the year linked to the overall business strategy and goals. This ensures that everyone in the organisation is putting in the same direction. For us we are very clear that this activity is the one key area that unlocks the growth potential of the business. Freeing up the creativity and motivating staff improves growth by at least 25 per cent.

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Garage reaps benefits as trainees learn new skills

By Simon Robinson

simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

A FAMILY-run garage is looking to accelerate its growth by putting apprentices in the driving seat.

Kent Car Craft, which opened its doors in Ramsgate four years ago, has three apprentices out of a total workforce of six.

Owner Owen Forrest said his young employees had helped the firm expand quickly.

"We're a relatively young business, but we have a very strong business ethic. We believe in honesty, integrity and in playing our part in the community. That's why we feel strongly about offering young people the chances we had."

"Taking on apprentices is a commitment, but if you put in the effort, you get it back in spades. We couldn't have grown our business as quickly without having them on the team. They work hard, they're committed and now they're part of the family."

Trainee mechanics Lee and Curtis Bezer have been brought in to help out in the garage, while Christina Moore helps run the administrative side of the business.

Lee said: "We have probably the most comprehensive diagnostic equipment this side of London, so we are learning much more than we would at most other garages."

Christina, who works alongside Owen's mum Anne, added: "I've only been here four months but Anne has taught me so much already. As well as helping customers and ordering parts, I've been updating our customer database and developing an email newsletter."

Kent Car Craft's approach has been praised by Training Solutions at Thanet College.

Business development director Karen Evans said: "Kent Car Craft has shown a real commitment to apprenticeships, recognising the benefits they bring while offering a route to harness fresh talent."



FRESH TALENT: Trainee mechanics Lee and Curtis Bezer, with Christina Moore

Kent Foundation pushes Fourth Option

THE Kent Foundation has unveiled plans to become the 'go-to' organisation for the county's potential young entrepreneurs.

The business charity outlined the objective as one of its key medium term goals in its three-year business plan.

It also aims to become independent, financially viable and further develop its niche services.

The objectives were laid out in the Foundation's Fourth Option document.

The Foundation said the Fourth Option was available to school-leaving students who wrongly believed they could only choose from further education, employment or unemployment.



A spokesman said: "Young people travelling through the education process are guided by the aspirations of others; government, parents, teachers and employers included."

"It is fair to say many young people are within their comfort zone at school, college and university. Many

find it challenging and some remains frustrated with academia."

"The Fourth Option is not for everyone. It must, however, be available as a realistic option for those who want it."

Kent Foundation, which celebrated its 25th anniversary last year, has outlined plans to invest £150,000 during the next three years, £25,000 of which will be spent on 'test trading', giving young entrepreneurs financial help in their first few months of business.

A further £5,000 has been allocated to the Business Pitch Challenge workshop, while a week-long Enterprise Experience has been given £8,000.

Visit www.kentfoundation.org for more information and details.

Science centre offers first-class training facilities

THE Kent Science Resource Centre offers a one-stop shop for firms looking for a range of specialised training courses or lab hire.

The Sittingbourne facility (KSRC) delivers a range of life science courses, including microbiology, immunology and chemistry, to schoolchildren, students and science technicians.

A spokesman said: "The centre offers state-of-the-art laboratory space and a range of courses.

"Course subjects include microbiology, analytical chemistry and DNA technology.

"KSRC can deliver training



COURSES:
Schools,
colleges and
employers
can make use
of lab facilities

packages to young people through their school or college, employers and individuals."

The centre is hosting a two-day training course on Wednesday, May 4, and Thursday, May 5.

Topics include health and safety;

weighing and making solutions; pipetting; cleaning glass and plastics; and equipment calibrations.

The course costs £350 for both days. KSRC is located on the Kent Science Park. Call centre manager Julie Coleman on 01795 599588.



Publishing firm wins apprentice in prize draw

A FOLKESTONE firm has won an extra pair of hands in a Kent Apprenticeships prize draw.

Sideways Media publishing director Adam Ready said its new employee would be given a number of testing tasks.

"I'm very pleased, and also very surprised to have won an apprentice for a year," he said.

"It's great to win something that will help the business grow and also give a young person an opportunity to gain experience and improve their skills. We're a publishing and design agency, so will be looking for someone who wants to develop a career in business administration and marketing, help us develop our insideKent magazine title, and grow the creative, online and publishing sectors of our business."

Kent Apprenticeships, a partnership between Kent County Council (KCC) and Kent Association of Training Organisations (KATO), is now working closely with Sideways Media to help them find the most suitable apprentice.

KCC's Sarah Colclough said: "Apprenticeships have benefits for both employers and young people, who have an opportunity to earn while they learn and get a start on the career ladder."

KATO network manager Lindsay Jardine added: "We are always happy to advise business owners and young people about the best kind of apprenticeship for them, and with more than 100 apprenticeships in over 60 industry sectors, there are plenty to choose from."



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Keep Kent Working!

2011
Campaign

It's jobs for Kent

Direct selling in spotlight at extravaganza

DIRECT selling companies will promote their industry at an event designed to help Keep Kent Working.

The Home Based Business Extravaganza, which will be held in Chatham on May 15, will be attended by 30 exhibitors from sectors including health, beauty, jewellery, eco-friendly products, children's books and more.

Direct selling is the marketing and selling of products directly to consumers away from a fixed retail location, and the event promises to provide a wealth of job opportunities to those who attend.

A spokesman said: "With the economy the way it is many people need a second income, and in some cases an income to start with.

"Some are realising that the only way forward is to build their own business, putting them in charge of their own destiny and not at the hands of an employer.

"Legitimate direct selling companies are an excellent source of income but you need to know where to look. The Home Based Business Extravaganza is helping to take the work out of finding those genuine companies to help the community get back to earning an income."

Life coaches will be in attendance at the event to offer support and advice to people, even if they do not feel the time is right to go into business for themselves.

Spot prizes will also be given out on the day.

The spokesman added: "These are genuine opportunities to help increase your income, and which offer you the ability to control your life and not let it control you.

"There is support to grow as an individual through the training and support programmes that are in place, with the capability to earn as many promotions as you want – not how many your boss thinks you are worth.

"These companies require no previous experience in the industry as they will provide the support and training you need to build your own business."

The Home Based Business Extravaganza will be held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, from 12.30-4.30pm on Sunday, May 15.

Email hbbe_kent@yahoo.co.uk or call 07789 601663 for more information.

Dedicated to finding and keeping new jobs



HELPING HAND: More than 100 partner organisations across the South East will help jobseekers find and keep work

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A FIVE-year programme to create more than 30,000 jobs in Kent, Surrey and Sussex has taken its first steps.

Last week the 10 organisations that will be delivering the Government's new Work Programme in the South East met for the first time, consisting of nine 'job brokers' and one dedicated 'in-work partner'.

The event at Gatwick Airport was hosted by the security contractor G4S, which has brought together a group of partners to deliver the programme, including the employment support organisations Kennedy Scott, RBLI and Pertemps.

Kent Supported Employment manager Chris Grogan said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with G4S to deliver the Work Programme in Kent.

"We are tremendously excited at the prospect of helping thousands of people into sustainable jobs in Kent, and consider G4S'

approach to the Work Programme highly professional and innovative."

Every job-seeker on the programme will receive individual support from a dedicated personal adviser within one of the partner organisations.

Their work will also be supported by more than 100 local bodies providing specialist help to tackle the problems people face in getting and holding down a good job, including lack of training, debt, health problems, drug or alcohol issues, childcare, and housing problems.

Alex Stevenson, regional partnership manager for G4S in the South East, said: "This is a massive opportunity for us to make a real difference to the lives of thousands of people in the South East by helping them into meaningful, lasting work.

"We will work with a huge range of partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver a really high-quality service that will link local people with real jobs, prepare them for work and give them on-going support to deal with issues that are holding them back."

One of many partners signed up to aid the Work Programme is the New Romney-based Romney Resource Centre, which offers a wide range of national vocational qualifications and short courses in computer skills.

Managing director Edna Delaney said: "Everyone is really excited and committed to developing a long-lasting collaborative working partnership with G4S.

"We are looking to support those who are unemployed and economically inactive back into sustainable employment, and to provide them with the skills needed by businesses – particularly within the rural Romney Marsh and Shepway local authority areas – for economic growth and prosperity.

"Together with G4S we can overcome the significant economic, welfare and rural challenges our communities face in the economic downturn. We believe this partnership approach will be an inspirational and remarkable addition to 'Getting Britain Moving Again'."

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.



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Help for sexual assault victims earns student volunteering award

A STUDENT from Ashford has received a national volunteering award for her dedication to helping victims of abuse.

Charlie Holland, 19, is currently studying psychology at Leicester's De Montfort University and has been awarded Volunteering England's Gold Award for Leadership.

The honour is in recognition of her work with First Step, an organisation that works with male survivors of sexual abuse and rape, and is the only vol-

unteering award that recognises leadership within further and higher education.

Charlie said: "I was so surprised to find out I had been nominated, let alone win the award. I only discovered after the ceremony that First Step had nominated me."

"The university volunteering team has been consistently supportive of my events, and I cannot thank them enough.

"Working as a volunteer is a brilliant experience and I feel it

has helped me develop as a person. The skills I have learned are numerous and diverse, but mainly it's just fun."

First Step spokeswoman Cas Beckett said Charlie had made a huge difference to the charity since she joined last October.

She added: "We are not the easiest of charities to raise funds for but Charlie has spent hours reading about our work. She is very much a team player and her desire to raise awareness has no bounds."

New gallery puts youth in the spotlight

TALENTED young artists and writers found out this week if they will have their work exhibited at the newly-opened Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate.

The Page Turner competition – organised in partnership with the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) and Aimhigher Kent and Medway – was open to everyone from secondary school age up to higher education undergraduates and teachers.

Nearly 450 young people from 40 different institutions submitted paintings, photographs, sculptures, collages, poems and prose inspired by the theme Nothing in the World but Youth, which is an exhibition due to be held from September 17 to January 8.

The top 175 entries were shortlisted for a special exhibition at UCA Canterbury on Wednesday, April 28, when 27 of the artists were given the good news that their work will be displayed at the Turner's Learning Studio from Saturday, May 14.

Four of those winning entries will also be included in the main exhibition, where they will appear alongside the work of artists including JMW Turner and Andy Warhol.

UCA access and outreach co-ordinator Gill Wilson said: "The standard of work and number of entries for the Page Turner competition has risen again, which is really exciting.

"The theme of Nothing in the World but Youth, plus the opportunity to have work shown at Turner Contemporary, has certainly captured the imagi-



HOPEFUL: Work by UCA student Oleta Williams
nation of students and staff across Kent."

The exhibition explores how youth experience has been reflected in art, culture and the media since the late 19th century.

Turner Contemporary head of learning Karen Eslea said: "The fantastic response from young artists and writers from across Kent speaks volumes.

"Art can transform lives, and I am very proud that young people from across the county have taken this opportunity to show their enthusiasm and great creative talent."

Open University success for those who want to earn while they learn

THREE students from the county have been rewarded for their years of part-time study by graduating from the Open University.

They are Peter Murray, an official receiver from Gillingham who earned an LLB (Hons); Joanne Rutter, a laboratory technician from Sevenoaks who graduated with a BSc; and Amanda Bishop, a self-employed confectioner and business consultant from Hythe who also received a BSc.

Mr Murray said: "I opted to study with the OU because it gave me the flexibility to study around my work, which meant I didn't need to work to a strict timetable of tutorials and I could plan my study time around my personal life."

Since it began in 1969, the OU has taught more than 1.6 million students and has more than 250,000 current learners, including 20,000 overseas.

More than 29,000 are under the age of 25, making up one in

four of all the Open University's new undergraduates.

Regional director Liz Gray said: "I would like to congratulate the students on their achievements.

"They have balanced the demands of their studies to complete their degrees.

"At a time when university is becoming more expensive, the OU remains the obvious choice for students who want to minimise student debt and continue to earn while they study."

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One of the UK's leading solar installation companies is looking for experienced installers to carry out solar PV installations in the South East.

As well as installation expertise, carpentry/roofing /electrical experience would also be a distinct advantage.

Please forward a CV by **6th May** to
sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk

The Green Home Company
Orchard House, Westerhill Road, Coxheath, Kent, ME17 4DH
01622 742708

www.thegreenhomecompany.com
TGHC is a subsidiary of GML Construction
and is an Equal Opportunities Employer

The GREEN HOME Company

The Green Home Company specialises in renewable energy technology for UK homes. TGHC is looking for the following staff to be part of this growing Kent company

TECHNICAL SURVEYOR

- c. £25,000, Bonus, BUPA, Van

An opportunity has arisen for an experienced Technical Surveyor to join our expanding team.

The successful candidate may have experience of PV solar surveying and the ability to create detailed site drawings ensuring that designs meet user requirements. In addition, the ability to liaise with installation teams for effective system delivery is essential. You will be customer facing and an important team member.

Successful applicants will be contacted by the 6th May 2011.

Applicants should send their CV to:

sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk

The Green Home Company, Orchard House,
Westerhill Road, Coxheath, Kent ME17 4DH
www.thegreenhomecompany.com

TGHC is a subsidiary of GML Construction and is an Equal Opportunities employer

**Port Regis Residential Elderly Care
Broadstairs**

Requires part-time cook

(min 36hours per fortnight)

Mainly 2-7:30pm with alternate weekend mornings - 7:30-2:30pm

Tel: **01843 602266**

WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home.

Full training and support available.

01622 671716

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

KOSMEDIA

Telephone: 01303 817040

Fax: 01303 817004

Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

Online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk



"We grow people"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for a

CARETAKER

**Medway Scale, Grade D2, points 12 - 21
£15,039 - £19,126 • 37 hours per week over split shift**

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Can you work using your own initiative, as well as being part of a team?

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary and Nursery) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with severe learning difficulties. The post holder will be based primarily at one of the school's sites, reporting to the Site Manager and Headteacher.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone

(stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP
(01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 13.5.2011

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To advertise in this section

**01303
817040**

Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

to join and enhance our high calibre team

**Medway Scale B2 - point 32 to 41 (£27,052 to £34,549)
(Full time - term time only - pro rata)**

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Physiotherapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. Candidates should hold a relevant Physiotherapy qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 6th May 2011 Interview Date: 17th May 2011

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.



RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

To assist the Director of Finance to develop and implement a purchasing policy and strategy, to co-ordinate purchasing practices, to maintain all relevant administration and hence to maximise savings and benefits available to the College from purchasing activities.

Salary scale: £22,289 - £26,408 for 37 hours per week all year

FACILITIES TEAM LEADER

To support the Head of Facilities in the running of the colleges Facilities services and the goods in team. Providing guidance to staff regarding everyday operations and helpdesk tasks and to work closely with the maintenance team ensuring the continuity of services provided to the college.

Salary scale: £19,659 - £23,040 for 37 hours per week all year

PLUMBER/MECHANIC

To work as part of the in-house Maintenance team at the College, Carrying out PPM maintenance duties on all college equipment including: Pumps, AHUs, Valves, Radiators, and hot water heaters etc, also to attend breakdowns as required and maintain the water safety regime as required by legislation.

Salary scale: £19,659 - £23,040 for 37 hours per week all year

ELECTRICIAN

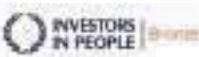
To work as part of the in-house Maintenance team at the College, Carrying out PPM maintenance duties on all college equipment including: 3 Phase Fans, Pumps, AHUs, and Inverters etc, also to attend breakdowns as required and maintain Emergency Lighting, and PAT Testing systems as required by legislation.

Salary scale: £19,659 - £23,040 for 37 hours per week all year

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts: Wednesday 4th May 2011

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



Located in an attractive part of South East Kent, Thanet College is an essential provider of high quality education and training. With good capacity to improve it is a great time to work at Thanet College and we are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams.

**"Staff morale is very high"
"Leadership is strong"**

"Thanet College has good capacity to make further improvement"
Ofsted report October 2010

We currently have the following vacancies available:

PROGRAMME LEADER FOR SPORT

37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR; SALARY SCALE: £29,413 - £34,817

FULL TIME LECTURER POSTS: MOTOR VEHICLE LECTURER ELECTRICAL LECTURER ENGINEERING LECTURER

SALARY SCALE: £25,589 - £30,205

AIR CABIN CREW/TRAVEL LECTURER

28 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR; SALARY SCALE: £19,365 - £22,858

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

*Closing date for the above posts:: Thursday 12 May 2011
Interviews to be held Friday 20th and Monday 23rd of May 2011*

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



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The Sittingbourne Community College



Daring to be different!
The Specialist College for Arts, Sport and Engineering.

One of the most rapidly improving schools in Kent. 5+ A-C English & Maths from 27% to 50%, and 5+ A-C from 60% to 85% in the last 3 years. Roll increased from 950 to 1,400 in 5 years (including 300 in Post 16 Centre).

**REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2011
MATHEMATICS TEACHER**
Salary Negotiable

Join a very successful department of Maths and work with a new young Head of Learning.
Excellent Professional Development opportunities, 34 staff promoted during last 3 years.

Committed to Child Protection and Safety. Post subject to Enhanced CRB Disclosure.

For further details please contact Mrs Debbie Myers, Personnel Officer, on 01795 472449 or email debbie.myers@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.

To apply, please send your letter of application and CV to Alan Barham, Headteacher, or email alan.barham@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.

CLOSING DATE: 13 May 2011

The Sittingbourne Community College
Swantree Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NL
Tel: 01795 472449 Fax: 01795 470332
Email: office@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk



The hardest, most challenging job you'll ever do!

Bradstow School

Bradstow is a fascinating and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19, set in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, and have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

£10,879 plus 10% per annum - 36.5 hours per week (including weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

£10,320 per annum - 34 hours per week, 8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Mon-Fri - Term time only.

The successful applicants will be responsible for assisting teachers in the classrooms and have a particular responsibility towards one teaching group.

FLEXI-BANK TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS - CARE & EDUCATION

£7.19 hourly rate, paid as claimed (a 10% additional allowance is paid for the Care Team role).

Working in both the classrooms and care areas, these roles offer support cover for short term staff absences.

*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's annual carer provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsive with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, in order to reduce paper usage. If you prefer to receive an application form and information pack please email personal@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Or you may call 01843 688727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine)

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon Friday 13th May 2011.



www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk



Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

Teacher for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence September 2011

MPS + 2 SEN Points +
TLR 2C £2535 (with previous experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

**Closing Date: 13th May 2011
Interviews to be held on 23rd May 2011**

For further details and an application pack, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

To advertise in this section

01303 817040



Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082
Fax: 01474 533844

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided,
Humanities College,
11-18, Mixed, Wide Ability School

ART & TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN

Required for September 2011

Full time post (37 hours per week)

Salary Kent Range 5

(pro rata equals £14,171 to £15,586 pa)

Due to the retirement of the current post holder, we are seeking an individual experienced in working in an art and/or technology environment using various tools and machinery. Experience of working with metal, wood, plastic and other materials is required. Good team working skills, the ability to interact positively with children and excellent resources management skills are essential.

Saint George's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Please contact the school to request further details and an application form

(Email thomsonm@
saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk)
or visit our website

www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 16 May 2011

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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/11/0391/N - CASA CAO, 10A, MAIDSTONE ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2OH - Erection of a single storey rear extension. **Reason:** 1

MA/11/0463/N - CASA CAO, 10A, MAIDSTONE ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2OH - Change of use of land to residential curtilage. **Reason:** 2

MA/11/0468/S - THE DAIRY COURT LODGE FARM, THE STREET, TESTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 5RB - Erection of two dormer windows within the east facing elevation to replace existing roof lights and insertion of a rooflight within the north facing elevation. **Reason:** 1, 2

MA/11/0514/N - BARN AT GREENWAY COURT FARM, GREENWAY COURT ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, KENT, ME17 1QD - Change of use and conversion of barn to a live/work unit within associated access and parking. **Reason:** 1

MA/11/0533/N - 2, KING STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1DE - An application for listed building consent for new signage; decoration of shopfront; new flooring, furniture, lighting and internal cosmetic decoration. **Reason:** 3

MA/11/0536/N - 53, EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TS - Erection of a single storey side extension and a two storey rear extension and changes to fenestration. **Reason:** 1, 2

MA/11/0537/N - 53, EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TS - An application for conservation area consent for the demolition of existing extensions. **Reason:** 4

MA/11/0540/N - NEW SHELF FARM, ASHFORD ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2DS - Conversion of existing agricultural buildings to B2 use (general industrial) with ancillary office accommodation including alterations to fenestration, laying of hardstanding, parking and associated works. **Reason:** 1

MA/11/0561/S - ACB LTD 20/20 INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LIPHOOK WAY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 0LQ - Demolition of existing warehouse and erection of a proposed new warehouse with offices. **Reason:** 6

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
- 5 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **15th May 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 1st May 2011



PROW - City of Canterbury

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY CB324

IN THE PARISH OF BEKESBOURNE WITH PATRIXBOURNE

(Public Bridleway CB324 in the Parish of Bekesbourne with Patrinxbourne)

(Prohibition Of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1) As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Bridleway CB324 between NGR TR 196 533 and NGR TR 197 535 (a distance of approximately 370 metres) from the 16th May 2011

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on the bridleway and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

An alternative route will be available and signed locally for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact:

Louise Adams
Tel: (01303) 814534 ex 206

Countryside Access Service

Kent County Council

Invicta House, County Hall,

Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX

Dated: 30th April 2011

The above notice may be provided in other formats

For further information,
please contact
Kent Countryside Access
Service, on 0845 345 0210
(Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



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JobsforKent.co.uk

Accountancy

Book Keeper

Medway

Salary Negotiable
PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER REQUIRED, 5 mornings per week
Must be conversant with Quickbooks and VAT returns.
Must be a flexible worker, reliable and able to work on own initiative. Please call Geoff on 01634 632895 or email geoff@airqualityassurance.co.uk. To apply/more information: Air Quality Assurance Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury

Salary TBC
Full-time/ Part-time

To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

well solo • Works well within a team • Thrives on self improvement and success
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Office & IT Manager

Ashford

Salary £23,000- £25,000
Office & IT Manager

We are seeking a highly-organised and self-motivated Office and IT Manager to run our busy grant-making office. Kent Community Foundation is an energetic and ambitious charity that supports hundreds of voluntary and community organisations across Kent and Medway. So if you want to make a difference to your local community, this could be the job for you. We are looking for someone with a logical and systematic approach as well as a passion for technology and new media who can lead on our IT strategy. You will have a positive, can-do approach working as part of a small hard-working and enthusiastic team, with excellent communication and customer service skills. please email admin@kcf.org.uk or phone 01303 814 500. Salary: £23,000- £25,000
Full-time
Permanent To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Accounts Administrator

Canterbury

Salary Negotiable
Full-time/ Part-time

Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity has arisen within a rapidly expanding, exceptional health centre. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics) Must be a proficient user of Sage 50 and Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Publisher; other basic computer skills are preferable. Hard working and motivated Enthusiastic and committed Organised and efficient Works well within a team and soloThrives on self Organised and efficient

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury

Salary TBC
Full-time/ Part-time

To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury

Salary 14k

Working hours are: 32 hours Mon - Fri: 6.30am - 12.30pm Tues 1.30pm-3.30pm
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Accounts Administrator

Canterbury

Salary Negotiable
Full-time/ Part-time

Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity has arisen within a rapidly expanding, exceptional health centre. The position is extremely sought after and is available immediately. Administrator and PA to Doctor of a rapidly expanding health care practice. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics) Basic computer skills are preferable. Proficient user of Sage 50 and Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Publisher • Hard working and motivated • Enthusiastic and committed • Organised and efficient Work well solo
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

A selection of the 100s of Local Jobs online

Catering, Hospitality

Chef

Deal

Salary Negotiable
Chef required for small care home in Deal immediate start. Must have experience. Every other weekend - 3 shifts and 4 shifts, alternative. For more information please phone 01304 372312 and speak to the Manager or Deputy Manager 01304 372312 and speak to the Manager or Deputy Manager To apply/more information: Rosehurst Residential Home applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Hospitality Operations and Customer Liaison Officer

Chatham

Salary circa £18,000 pa Post or email your application to include your CV and a letter explaining why you are suitable for the role:
Anthony Morse, Hospitality, Events & Group Trade Manager, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, The Old Surgery, The HisME4 4TZ Email: amorse@chdt.org.uk To apply/more information: Chatham Historic Dockyard Quoting Job Ref: kos Chatham Historic Dockyard Quoting Job Ref: kos

Child Care

PRACTICE MANAGER

Kent

Salary TBC
To apply/more information: ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

RGN

Kent

Salary 12.5-13
To apply/more information: ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Healthcare Assistant

Essex

Salary 8-9.25
Hales group are looking for healthcare assistants that are urgently required to work in Colchester. We are looking to recruit support workers to work with 2 of our clients in the Clacton on sea area. As an experienced recruiter we pride ourselves on placing highly skilled and competent support workers to assist our clients when they are unable to fill shifts internally. To apply for this position please call 01284 374441 or e-mail your CV to tom@halesgroup.co.uk. Due to the large amount of applications we receive, if you do not hear from us within 7 days please assume your application unsuccessful on this occasion. Duties and Additional Comments

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

BETHERSDEN ROAD, SMARDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bethersden Road, Smarden, on or after 20 May 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Romden Road and Luckhurst Lane.

The alternative route is via Bethersden Road, Buffalo Lane and Romden Road.

CHURCH LANE, ALDINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Lane, Aldington, on or after 16 May 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in rolling sections in the vicinity of Sellindge Converter Station and the motorway bridge.

The alternative route is via A20 Hythe Road, Station Road, Goldwell Lane and Roman Road.

A28 ROLVENDEN ROAD, TENTERDEN & A20 MAIDSTONE ROAD, ASHFORD (10 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce whilst roadworks are carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order imposing a temporary maximum speed limit of 10 miles per hour on the roads shown below, on or after 16 May 2011 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected are as follows

A28 ROLVENDEN ROAD, TENTERDEN between Cranbrook Road and Rolvenden Level Crossing
Planned for 18 May then 25 May 2011

A20 MAIDSTONE ROAD, ASHFORD between the Orchard Heights Roundabout and Leacon Lane, Charing
Planned for 19 & 20 May then 26 & 27 May 2011

This Order applies when the relevant signs are on display, and will be used in conjunction with temporary traffic lights and a "Convoy System" to escort traffic through roadworks during repairs and resurfacing.

The speed limit will only be implemented at such times when it is not safe to work without this restriction.

These works are weather dependent, and the timing may be affected by adverse conditions.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CENTRAL AREA, CANTERBURY) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO.2) ORDER 2011

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 3) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The Orders will have the following effect:-

Prohibition of driving except for access to properties within the affected length of street:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Adelaide Place | From a point in line with the south eastern boundary wall of 4 Adelaide Place for a distance of 27 metres in a south easterly direction. |
|-----------------------|--|

Prohibition of Waiting at any time (double yellow lines):

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Adelaide Place | On both sides from the junction with Castle Street for a distance of 24 metres |
|-----------------------|--|

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford TN24 8AD, and at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to:

The Transportation and Development Manager, East Kent Area, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.
Or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk

UPPER CHANTRY LANE & OATEN HILL, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install ducting and power cables to upgrade the electricity network, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting westbound through traffic on Upper Chantry Lane & Oaten Hill, Canterbury, on or after 15 May 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The roads will be closed westbound only, between the junctions with A2050 New Dover Road and Old Dover Road.

The alternative route for westbound traffic is via A25 St George's Place, A28 Upper Bridge Street and Old Dover Road.

Oaten Hill and Upper Chantry Lane will become One-way only, from Old Dover Road towards New Dover Road.

WILLIAM STREET, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on William Street, Herne Bay, on or after 3 May 2011 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between High Street and Hanover Square.

The alternative route is via High Street, Station Road and Kings Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of William Street will be suspended between the junctions with Hanover Square and Queen Street to allow access.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, GREAT MONGEHAM, DISTRICT OF DOVER) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 2) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1, 2 and 124 of Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act. The effect of the Order will be to introduce double yellow lines on the following lengths

NORTHBORNE ROAD on the south-easterly side from the junction with Willow Road for a distance of 25 metres in a south easterly direction

WILLOW ROAD on the south-easterly side from the junction with Northbourne Road for a distance of 52 metres in a south westerly direction.

The Order was sealed on the 28 April 2011 and will come into force on the 3rd May 2011

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dover District Council, Council Offices, Honeywood Road, Whitfield, Dover, CT16 3PJ and at Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOUGHTON LANE, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Boughton Lane from Paynes Lane to outside number 60 and at the corner of Boughton Lane adjacent to Eddington Close on or after Sunday 22nd May 2011 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via A229 Loose Road, A229 Linton Road, Linton Crossroads, B2163 Heath Road Linton, Church Street Boughton Monchelsea, Beresford Hill, Bottlescrew Hill, Boughton Lane and vice versa. This route is not suitable for Large Goods Vehicles.

Walker Construction (UK) Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for carriageway resurfacing and road markings. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Andy Pilcher on 01303 851111.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

VARIOUS ROADS, WEST KINGSDOWN AND STANSTED - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event takes place on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, West Kingsdown and Stansted as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 16th May 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The restrictions are planned to commence 19th May 2011 and last 4 days.

Schedule 1

Restriction: 30mph Speed Limit
Road Name: A20 London Road, West Kingsdown
Extent: Between Pells Lane and Plaxtol Green Road

Road Name: Ash Lane / South Ash Road, Stansted
Extent: Between A20 London Road and Pease Hill

Restriction: Temporary One Way Order
Road Name: Ash Lane, Stansted
Extent: Between A20 London Road and Stansted Lane

Diversion: Stansted Lane A20 London Road
Road Name: Stansted Lane, West Kingsdown
Extent: Between Ash Lane and the entrance to Golf Course

Diversion: A20 London Road and Ash Lane

The purpose of the restrictions is to facilitate Golf Live 2011.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

HILLSIDE STREET, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply to Varne Court, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hillside Street, Hythe, on or after 16 May 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between number 32 and "Bella Vista".

The alternative route is via Lucy's Hill, North Road, Station Road (Fanners Hill in reverse), Dental Street and Hillside Street.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

THROWLEY ROAD, THROWLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Throwley Road, Throwley, on or after 16 May 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Leaveland Belles Forstal and Housefield Road.

The alternative route is via Leaveland Belles Forstal, A231 Ashford Road, Broomfield Lane and Housefield Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (MANSTON ROAD, THANET) (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 82(2), 83(2) and 84(1)(a) and (2) and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to that Act:

The order will have the following effect:

Extension of the 30 MPH speed limit in Manston Road, Thanet from the existing 30 MPH limit to the point 10 north-east of the boundary line of Rosemary Nursery.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate and at Kent Highway Services, A231 Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate during

normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 23rd May 2011.

STATION ROAD, WESTGATE-ON-SEA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to potholes, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea, on or after 18 May 2011 for up to 1 evening, or until the works have been completed.

It is planned the works will be carried out between the hours of 6.00 pm and 11.00 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with St Mildred's Road and Roxburgh Road.

The alternative route is via St Mildred's Road, Westgate Bay Avenue and Roxburgh Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (TUMBLEFIELD ROAD, STANSTED) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Tumblefield Road outside 'Court Lodge Farm' on or after Tuesday 3rd May 2011 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Plaxdale Green Road, Labour In Vain Road, Tumblefield Road.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to install a new electricity supply. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (GOODS STATION ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Goods Station Road outside Fenwick Store on or after Sunday 22nd May 2011 for a period of up to 1 night between 18:00hrs and 06:00hrs or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Victoria Road, Garden Road, Lansdowne Road, Calverley Road, Monson Road, Mount Pleasant Road, Grosvenor Road, Goods Station Road.

Baldwins Crane Hire apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to lift air conditioning units onto Fenwick's roof. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Mark Goddard on 0207 511 2600.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WAGON LANE, LEVEL CROSSING, PADDOCK WOOD) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Wagon Lane at the level crossing on or after Wednesday 4th May 2011 for a period of up to 1 night between 00:05hrs and 05:00hrs or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Wagon Lane, Queen Street, Lucks Lane, B2160 Maidstone Road, Wagon Lane.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused, which is necessary for tamping of the track through the level crossing. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Emma Osborne on 07791 179882.

Katherine Kerswell, Group Managing Director
Invicta House, County Hall,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ

Dated 30th April 2011

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800
(local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways





**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010**

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/DO/0069/2011 - Proposed development at land adjacent to the Junction of the A257 and A256, North of Woodnesborough, Kent.

Coastal Oil and Gas Limited is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for a temporary change of use of agricultural land (for approximately 12 weeks) to allow drilling of an exploratory borehole to test the insitu coals, Lower Limestone Shale and associated strata; including provision of a drill rig and associated site compound.

You may view this application at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, CT16 3PJ or at the Sandwich Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich, CT13 9AH or at our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

**KCC/MA/0159/2011 - Lenham Wastewater Treatment Works,
Lenham Heath Road, Lenham, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 2JE.**

Southern Water is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission to install two walk in kiosks (Ferric Dosing and Effluent Monitoring) within the boundary of the Wastewater Treatment Works.

You may view this application at Maidstone Borough Council, The Gateway Reception, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ or at our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

**KCC/SE/0070/2011 - Proposed development at
Seal CE Primary School, Zambra Way, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0DJ.**

Kent County Council is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the placement of one, six bay modular building to accommodate an additional two classrooms.

You may view this application at Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG or at our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

**NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010
AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION
AREAS) ACT 1990**

**KCC/SH/0189/2011 - Proposed development at
The Marsh Academy, Station Road, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8BB.**

The Marsh Academy is applying to the Kent County Council as County Planning Authority for planning permission for a new build facility for the Marsh Academy comprising an Inclusion Centre for its pupils and a Family Centre providing ongoing support for the pupils and their families. The centre will also have, as part of its facilities, the provision for education for disabled members of the community and for out of hours use for organisations such as the youth club. The centre will have provision for 2 parking spaces and 2 minibus drop-off spaces for disabled users of the centre.

The proposed development is adjacent to a Conservation Area and may affect its character and/or appearance.

You may view this application at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or at the New Romney District office, One Stop Shop, Church Approach, New Romney, Kent or at our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

**KCC/SW/0184/2011 - Proposed development at
Oaks Community Infant School, Gore Court Road, Sittingbourne,
Kent, ME10 1GL.**

The Oaks Infant School is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for installation of low level fencing to existing separating path to create a boundary between the school site and Tunstall Court.

The proposed development may affect the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or at our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

Alternatively, details of the applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 1999**

**NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 21 OF DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION FOR
PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL
STATEMENT**

**GR/10/1127 - Proposed development at
Northfleet Works, The Shore, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 9AN.**

I give notice that on 15 April 2011 Kent County Council granted planning permission for a temporary (2011-2016) mixed use scheme consisting of a facility for receiving, handling, processing and transhipment of excavated material (sui generis) and a segment casting and storage facility (B2 general industrial), with ancillary facilities, infrastructure and works including: ground reggrading and site preparation works; canteen / welfare facilities provided within the existing ancillary office building; conveyors and associated plant; segment loading facilities; internal roads; rail sidings; area for car parking and lorry holding; weighbridge, wheel wash and sheeting / unsheeting areas; supporting infrastructure and services including security fencing, utilities, water treatment areas and a segregated public right of way; and other minor works and development ancillary to the main proposals (i.e. a Temporary Tunnelling Logistics Facility) at Northfleet Works, The Shore, Northfleet, Gravesend, DA11 9AN.

You may view this application, the environmental statement, the committee report and the planning permission at Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU or at our offices at the address above during all reasonable office hours.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 1 May 2011



Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/01097/LBC Little Portobello Windmill Hill, Brenchley
- Replacing and repositioning of boiler, and altering internal layout (LB)

11/01098/FUL 39 Mount Ephraim Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Alterations to rear elevation (CA) (LB)

11/01101/LBC Bricklayers West Road, Goudhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Existing kitchen replanned to provide a kitchen/breakfast room and entrance lobby; Basement water proofed and converted to provide an utility room; Alterations to steps, handrail and balustrade in hall (LB)

11/01117/LBC Bricklayers West Road, Goudhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Existing bathroom re planned to form two shower rooms, new rooflight in one shower room and existing rooflight over back stairs replaced, new staircase and corridor from the second floor to the first floor to provide better access and emergency escape (LB)

11/00792/LBC 7 Colonnade Rye Road, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Work to rear of kitchen: Demolition of 2 No. Internal brick partition walls; Making good of floor; Insulation and dry lining internally to external walls; Underlining of lathe and plaster ceiling with gypsum plasterboard and skim coat with plaster (LB)

11/01072/HOUSE The Stable Nevergood Farm, Horsemunden
- Retrospective three bay garage to replace tractor and implement shed (LB)

11/01115/HOUSE Green Lane Cottage The Slade, Lamberhurst

- Additional garage with store over (CA) (PROW)

11/00874/FUL Mount Sion Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
(Opposite no. 13) Retrospective: Installation of DSLAM superfast broadband cabinet (LB) (CA)

11/01015/LBC 23 Mount Sion Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent: Structural works to strengthen and support beam by means of structural columns and beam (LB)

11/01138/LBC 66 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent: Internal refit of existing retail unit, repair and redecoration of existing shop front (LB)

11/0099/HOUSE The Stocks Shandon Close, Park

- New walling and entrance gates (CA)

11/01023/HOUSE 5 Lower Green Road Pembury, Pembury

- Removal of existing side and rear later additions and replacement with new single storey extension to side and glazed addition to rear (CA) (LB)

**11/00872/FUL BT Openreach Telecommunications Cabinet Outside Spa Hotel,
Rusthall**
- Retrospective: Installation of DSLAM superfast broadband cabinet (CA) (LB)

11/00875/FUL Rusthall Road Rusthall, Rusthall

- (junction of Harmony Street) Retrospective: Installation of DSLAM superfast broadband cabinet (CA)

11/01116/HOUSE Downgate Silverden Lane, Sandhurst

- Installation of a 40x20 metre sand school (LB)

11/00912/FUL 11 St James Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James
- Replacement of existing timber framed windows with uPVC double glazed windows and the addition of rooflights to front elevation (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting a Public Right of Way (CA)
Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications
(MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planning.comments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 30 April 2011

**Including family announcements in
partnership with the Kent registration service**

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the
Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries
telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

COLWELL

Nadia and Michael
Colwell are pleased
to announce the birth
of their daughter, Mia
Nadia Colwell.

Dover, passed away on
the 19th April, 2011.
Enquiries to
Chittendens on 01303
851456.

CROSLAND

Elizabeth (Liz) Anne
Crosland died on
Monday, 18th April,
after a long illness.
There will be a funeral
and service of
thanksgiving for her
life at Wye Parish
Church, Wye, Kent,
on Friday, 6th May, at
2pm. This will be
followed immediately
by a private cremation
at Charing
Crematorium. No
flowers, but donations
to Pilgrims Hospice.

DEATHS

CLEMENTS

Graham Clements,
known as Clem, of

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online



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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Sections 15 and 16 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003:

1. from 11 July to 5 August 2011 on Mondays to Fridays inclusive between 9am and 4pm any person interested on application to the Head of Finance and Governance, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS may inspect and make copies of the accounts of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2011 and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating thereto; and

2. on or after 8 August 2011 until the completion of the audit, the District Auditor, Andy Mack, 1st Floor, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London, SW1P 4HQ at the request of any local government elector for the area to which the accounts relate, will give the elector or their representative an opportunity to question him about the accounts, and any such elector or representative may attend before the Auditor and make objection to any of the accounts. No objection shall be made by or on behalf of a local government elector unless the District Auditor has previously received written notice of the proposed objection and of the grounds on which it is to be made. Where an elector sends a notice to the Auditor for this purpose they shall at the same time send a copy of the notice to the Council.

Lee M. Colyer CPFA
Head of Finance & Governance (S151 Officer)
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN1 1RS

April 2010

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

**THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004**

**APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford

Applicant: Mrs Sharon Birch

Name of Premises: Associate House, Queens Road, Ashford

Applicant: Mrs Sharon Birch

Plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration,
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1X



To place your notice here call the Kent Public
Notice team on **01303 817044**



Experience former days of honour and chivalry

PAGE 59



GAME FOR NEW DISH

Meet the chef who aims to re-educate our taste in quality meat

PAGE 53

Kent Weekend

Punk, folky types



Bad Shepherds rebel against tradition

TURN TO PAGE 49

Dealing with death is part of the day job - **talking point p50** Take a look around the Victorian beauty that's been restored to her former glory but with the addition of just a few mod cons - **finest homes p74** Lexus scares off rivals with its latest creation - **driving p85**



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ADRIAN Edmondson accepts that music has played as important a part in his life as comedy. "If there had been a dossers' course in music when I left school I would have gone down that route," he said. "Unfortunately, there were just dossers' courses in drama, so I ended up doing that instead, although I have no regrets."

The 54 year-old was at the very cutting edge of alternative comedy, particularly working with his partner Rik Mayall on TV shows such as *The Young Ones* and *The Comic Strip*.

Even in those early days, music featured heavily in the comedy, too. *Bad News* were a spoof heavy-metal band created by Edmondson and the subject of two *Comic Strip* shows. Although a send-up, they ended up playing the Monsters of Rock festival at Castle Donington.

Edmondson said: "Although the impetus is different, the way we work together is just the same. When we did *Bad News* live, it was really just like being in a band. We used to get people jumping up and down in the mosh pit, which took a certain amount of synchronisation."

Now, though, Edmondson's music has taken another direction. After buying a mandolin he started working out chords on it using music he knew as a teenager.

He said: "They were songs from the punk era. I knew immediately that playing them on the mandolin had a kind of ring to it."

At the time, Edmondson was also working with Neil Innes from the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band. After working together on the songs, he advised the comic to get some other top-drawer folk musicians on board. He approached Troy Donockley, who was known for his playing of the Uilleann [Irish] bagpipes.

Edmondson said: "I vaguely knew Troy because I had seen him play with a heavy-metal band called Nightwish. I knew he did not mind playing in different genres with his pipes. I rang him up and we got on like a house on fire."

Andy Dinan then joined with his fiddle to make up the group The Bad Shepherds.

Even before the new band, Edmondson had been discovering the folk-music scene himself.

"I had a folk renaissance about 10 years ago. I was playing at a gig and I heard Kate Rusby and John McCusker playing in another venue, and they were really good. There is a kind of energy in some folk music – when a reel or a jig takes off, it is just like the excitement I used to get as a teenager at a punk gig," he said.

Edmondson found the songs of his youth by bands such as The Jam, The Clash, Sex Pistols and Squeeze transferred well to the folk genre.

He said: "I always liked those songs, but then I realised they were even better than I remembered. They have great lyrics, but most people have never heard them because of the way they were played."

"They are naively constructed but from the heart and about the same kind of issues a lot of folk music is about."

"There are ballads like *Down In The Tube Station At Midnight* and social commentary like *Sound Of The Suburbs* – even *Anarchy In The UK* can be seen as a protest song. We often get comments after the gigs from people saying they are amazed by what the songs are about."

Edmondson describes his own musical talents as playing the 'thrash mandolin'.

He said: "I use it as a rhythm instrument and strum it quite hard. I also use a couple of sizes so we get a different tone. I am the only person that plays it like that. It is definitely my sound."

And The Bad Shepherds have been embraced by the folk community. In 2010 they were nominated as one of the best live acts at the BBC Folk Awards.

Edmondson said: "The nomination was a surprise, but I know the folk world well. I have hung around it for years – I'm not sure of how suspicious they are of me now."

The band are playing Whitstable's East Quay in three weeks. "I like intimate venues and smaller festivals," said Edmondson. "We want to make the gig feel like a party. I would describe us as a joyous band. People know all the songs, but they are hearing the lyrics in a way they have not heard them before. I think we surprise them by moving them because of the melancholy. We also slip in a fair number of reels and jigs to help them to get up and dance if they want to, although we don't force it."

The band continue to add to their repertoire, but finding the right kind of song is important.

Edmondson said: "We have tried to use songs from the OMD, Heaven 17 and Human League era, but in truth the lyrics aren't strong enough. They have to stand on their own without any of the effects of a bigger-produced track."

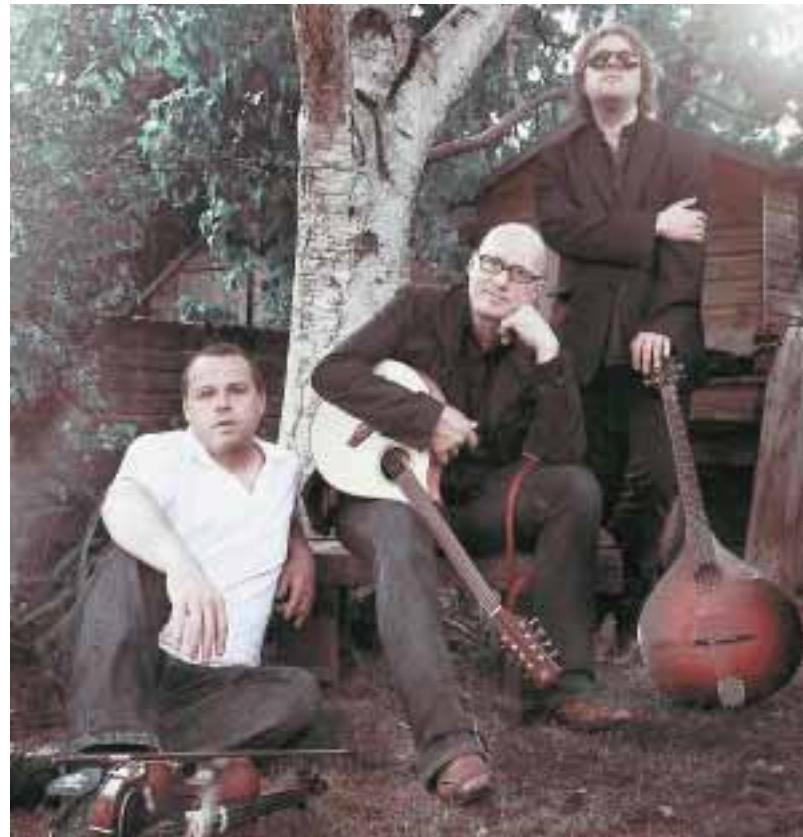
Edmondson is determined not to be pigeonholed into any field of entertainment. He recently danced in a tutu for Comic Relief and in 2009 played Captain Hook in panto at Canterbury.

He said: "People want you to be one thing or the other, but I want to sit on the fence. I write and perform comedy, direct music videos, I do soap acting. I like being a moving target."

■ **The Bad Shepherds Play at the East Quay, Whitstable, on Friday, May 20, at 7.30pm. See <http://whitlive.co.uk> for details.**

Alternative gig for a young one

Bad Shepherd Adrian Edmondson talks to **Ed Hill** about rocking with his mandolin



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SINCE setting out on his career as a coroner exactly 25 years ago this Sunday, Roger Sykes has had to deal with more than 40,000 people's deaths in Kent and Medway.

A children's solicitor by trade, the 62-year-old Sissinghurst resident has become all too accustomed to grief and despair after a quarter-of-a-century dominated by suicides, accidents and countless other tragedies.

But despite the stern, professional manner in which he has overseen inquests in Mid Kent and Medway since 1986, Mr Sykes – who retired this week – admits he sometimes has difficulty keeping his emotions in check.

"The main concern I had at the beginning was being able to cope with the emotional side of the job, as well as the forensic demands," he said. "Listening to some cases can be desperately harrowing and is bound to affect anyone."

"I thought my background in childcare legal work was an advantage in coping with the emotional stress, and as time has gone on it has become much easier."

"But there are two aspects of the job that are always very hard, one of which is dealing with the death of a child and the other is having to read people's suicide notes."

"In terms of the death of a child, the grief of the parents and the feelings of guilt they often have are really quite vivid."

"It's very rare that I would need to go to the scene of a death but occasionally I do need to, and there are some sights you just don't forget. One was a young girl who was about the same age as my daughter was at the time."

"You have to keep your emotions out of the courtroom as much as you can but often there's a lump in my throat when I'm giving words of condolence to the families after."

The job of a coroner is to deal with deaths that are sudden, unexplained, following an industrial disease or due to suicide or accidents. They must also decide whether a pathologist should carry out a postmortem examination on the body, as well as whether or not an inquest should be held.

The verdict delivered by a coroner at the end of an inquest – eg, accidental, misadventure, unlawful – is often of importance to families seeking compensation for the death of a loved one.

But despite having to fulfil several legal duties, Mr Sykes admits coroners also have a moral responsibility to attempt to prevent future tragedies.

"That's one of the most important things coroners can do," he said. "You so often hear families say they don't want other people to go through what they have, and it's part of our job to try and make sure they don't."

"In the case of Jade Hobbs (who died with her grandmother as they attempted to cross busy Detling Hill, near Maidstone, in December, 2000), I suspect there was already a commitment to put up a crossing there, but I certainly wrote a letter to support that."

"I went up there to take my own decisions about crossing the road at the same time of day Jade and her grandmother were killed, and even though I had greater maturity than Jade and greater physical mobility than her grandmother, I still found it a very dangerous place to cross."

When Mr Sykes was appointed Maidstone coroner in 1986, he had a caseload of just 400 deaths a year and was able to keep his job as a solicitor. However, as he was asked to take on larger areas of Kent – namely Medway and Swale – the number rocketed to about 2,500 a year.

Mr Sykes believes the shocking case of Dr Harold Shipman, who was found guilty of mur-



Kent coroner Roger Sykes is retiring after 25 years during which he has dealt with more than 40,000 deaths in the county. He talks to reporter STEVE KNIGHT about the strains of the job, the emotional toll it takes, and his role in helping to prevent future tragedies

DEALING WITH DEATH PART OF THE DAY JOB

6699

Some cases are desperately harrowing. You have to keep your emotions out of the courtroom as much as you can, but often there's a lump in my throat when I'm giving words of condolence

ROGER SYKES

dering 15 of his patients in the late 1990s but is thought to have killed more than 200 more, may have contributed to the large increase of deaths being reported to him.

He said: "Doctors are understandably reporting more deaths to coroners just to be on the safe side, in case there's something the coroner feels needs to be looked into. I'm entirely content with that."

"It's better to get these things out of the way at an early stage because you don't want to cause any further distress to a family by delaying the funeral."

Despite looking forward to enjoying his retirement away from the courtroom, Mr Sykes says he still intends to play a part in public life.

He recently agreed to join Kent County Council's local safeguarding children board, and will also be taking part in a charity bike ride from London to Paris in July to raise money for the Save Canterbury Cathedral appeal.

"I'm an under-sheriff of Kent and every year

we have an annual service for judges at the cathedral," he said. "The feeling of going into the cathedral with the trumpets, organs and choir is just the most moving experience, and I wanted to do my bit in return for all the marvellous memories I've gained over the years."

"The only problem is that I hadn't ridden a bike since my school days, and that was about 45 years ago. I'm a bit wobbly and can't quite turn around to see what's coming behind me, so I'm afraid to say I've become a bit of a menace on the road."

"But I'm hugely looking forward to that and it will be a great satisfaction for me to complete the ride."

Mr Sykes retires at a time when KCC is considering a shake-up of the coroners service in Kent, and the authority will no doubt have a tough time replacing him.

"There will always be a need for inquests," he said. "And I have been very privileged to have held the position of coroner, and the satisfaction of having done a reasonable job over the years."



GRIM: About 2,500 deaths are reported to the coroners' service every year in Mid Kent and Medway, with outgoing coroner Roger Sykes (below) having dealt with more than 40,000 since his appointment exactly 25 years ago.

HAVE YOUR SAY...

We would like to hear your views on this, or any other story.

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FOLKESTONE: Probably named after 'a stone marking a meeting place of a man called Folca'

Author reveals exactly what's in Kent's names

By **Marijke Cox**

marijke.cox@archanct.co.uk

HIDDEN origins of the names of Kent's towns have been revealed in a witty book of English place names.

From ancient legends to local folklore, author Caroline Taggart uncovers the reasons the county's districts, villages and towns are called what they are today.

In The Book of English Place Names, Ms Taggart covers 21 areas in Kent as well as the name of the county itself, which comes from an Old Celtic name meaning 'coastal district'.

She said: "Place names are fascinating and the more I got into research it the more fascinated I became."

"They show how people lived, which gods they worshipped, where there came from and what the land was like."

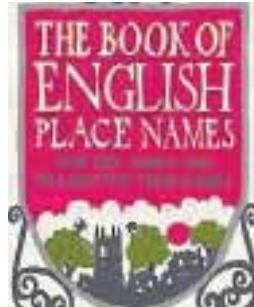
"Romney Marsh, for example, used to be covered in water and 'ey' is the Old English for 'river'."

Ms Taggart, who lives in London, explained how invasions in different parts of the country by people such as the Celts, the Normans and the Saxons would have had an impact on place names.

"Cornwall was one of the only places that escaped invasion and so the area has almost all Cornish names," she said.

"The Danes invaded in the North and so there are Scandinavian names up there."

Ms Taggart, who has written several reference books, includ-



OUR PLACE NAMES: Caroline Taggart's new book reveals all

ing bestseller *I Used to Know That*, said she had spent time in Kent and was fascinated by what her research uncovered.

"I've been down to Folkestone a lot as I have friends down there and I always thought it was called that because it was a town with lots of people, but it's nothing of the sort."

In her book she explains how it was most likely to be named after 'a stone marking a meeting place of a man called Folca'.

"We know that in Anglo-Saxon times Folkestone was the most important settlement in this part of Kent, so public meetings would have been held here."

She added: "Or if you take the 's' with the first part of the word Folks, as in belonging to, then tone could mean town."

In a description of Gravesend, Ms Taggart revealed the town's name was nothing to do with death or graveyards,

but should have been Gravesend; 'the place at the end of a grove or copse'.

Moving eastwards, she delved into the history behind Thanet's name, which she said came from an Old Celtic word meaning "bright island" in reference to a beacon positioned on what is now Telegraph Hill.

And contrary to opinion, she explained how Swanley related to swains rather than swans which meant a 'herds-men's woodland clearing' and Swanscombe 'herds-men's enclosed land'.

"The book is twice as long as any others I've written," she said.

"I had to go into more depth than ever before. It's almost a history book and a geography book and it is light-hearted but accurate."

"It's a starting point for people who want to take it further but also those who are interested in genealogy."

She added: "I think place names could change over the years, although I think it would more likely be enclosures within towns, for example, lots of places have Chinatown and Little Italy and there will be more like this in the future."

"Over the years culture has become more sophisticated and names have become more important."

Ms Taggart said this was her seventh book and her favourite to write. She added: "People have been kind enough to say I have a good voice and my friends said they can almost hear it when they read my books."

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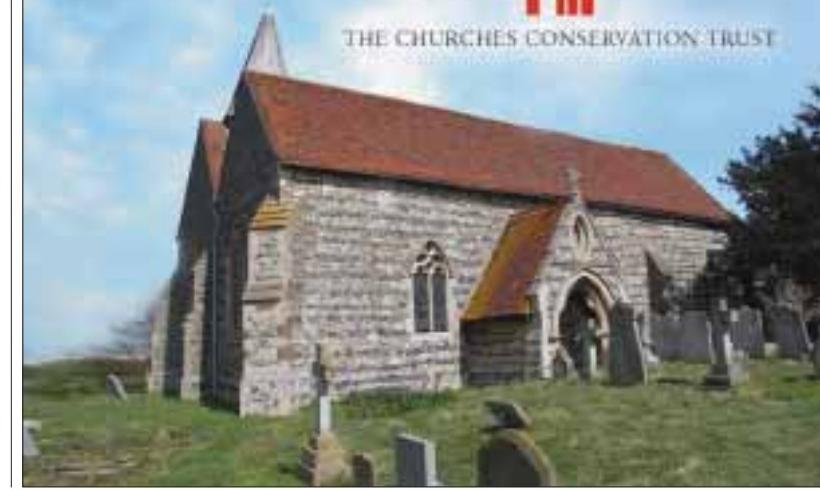
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Chef with a game plan to educate our palates

ROLVENDEN-BASED Mark Gilchrist is a chef with a passion for everything game. He runs an events-based specialist catering company, aptly called Game For Everything, and is a crusader of the best our countryside can produce.

His mission, he says, is to change people's perception of game and bring it to a new audience. "I want my cooking to reflect the passion I have for rural business and country issues," he says.

He creates what he calls "modern game cooking", bringing out the subtle flavour of gamebirds.

"I have developed my recipes and methods for modern game-cooking, not from books written by researchers, but from the experience I have developed by shooting, processing, hanging and cooking more than 50,000 gamebirds," he says.

The 30-year-old's interest was sparked early in his life when he began helping his father to shoot and cook game aged seven, handling a rifle for the first time at just 14.

His love for cooking game continued as he helped in his mother's restaurant in France.

However, it was only after he graduated with a chemistry degree from Durham University that he decided to make it his future.

He supports the slow food philosophy of good (taste), clean (environmentally sustainable) and fair (paying appropriately for skill and labour) and is an ardent believer in fresh, local produce, sourcing most of his ingredients locally from such places as Macknade Fine Foods near Faversham, owned by the Cuomo family.

The shop carries a range of fine foods

Kiki Case meets Mark Gilchrist, whose recipes are designed to put gamebirds firmly back on the menu

TWO HATS:

Mark Gilchrist has been shooting game since he was 14, and has combined this with his passion for cooking, creating his own catering company, called Game For Everything

from around the world, such as meat, fruit, vegetables, freshly-baked breads, fine wines, beer, tea coffee, cheese, jams, spices and sauces.

Stefano Cuomo, who runs it, travels and personally selects and sources produce directly from the producer. This dedication has given it a well-deserved reputation for quality, and Janet Street Porter recently rated it as one of her top five British food places.

Here, Mark shares one of his recipes for you to try at home using locally-sourced venison.

An under-used but delicious meat, venison is a healthy alternative to the usual red meats because it has a low fat content. This means that it has a tendency to dry out quicker, so do make sure you baste it as you cook.

Mark shoots his own roe deer but recommends Kent butchers/shops such as Macknade, Godmersham Game and Necci Game. Vegetables and herbs can be found at any of the farm shops across the county.

■ Pan-fried loin of venison with hot butter sauce, purple sprouting broccoli and parsnip purée

INGREDIENTS

Loin of roe deer, purple sprouting broccoli, parsnip, butter, garlic, rosemary, sage, bay leaves, milk, egg yolk, wholegrain mustard

VENISON

1) SEAR THE LOIN IN THE PAN FOR 2 MINS ON EACH

SIDE (A TOTAL OF 6 MINS) IN OIL WITH SAGE, BAY LEAVES AND ROSEMARY IN THE PAN

2) AFTER 2 MINS, ADD A NOB OF BUTTER AND SPOON THE BUTTER OVER THE VENISON TO KEEP IT MOIST

3) PLACE IN A 100-DEGREE OVEN TO RELAX FOR 10 TO 15 MINS

BROCCOLI

1) BOIL PURPLE SPROUTING BROCCOLI UNTIL TENDER IN BOILING SALTED WATER

2) FINISH IN GARLIC BUTTER

PARSNIP PURÉE

1) POACH CUBED PARSNIPS IN MILK UNTIL TENDER (ABOUT 15 MINS)

2) PURÉE THE CUBES, ADDING MILK, BUTTER AND SALT TO TASTE (BE HEAVY ON THE SALT TO STOP IT TASTING TOO SWEET)

HOT BUTTER SAUCE

1) MELT 40 G OF BUTTER IN A PAN (SLOWLY)

2) PLACE 1 EGG YOLK IN A PYREX OR METAL BOWL AND ADD A TABLESPOON OF WATER AND A TEASPOON OF WHOLEGRAIN MUSTARD

3) WHISK THE MIXTURE CONSTANTLY OVER A STEAMING PAN, ADDING THE BUTTER TO THE EGG YOLKS, ONE DROP AT A TIME

4) AS SOON AS THE MIXTURE HAS A NICE THICK CONSISTENCY, REMOVE FROM THE HEAT AND SERVE

■ Mark Gilchrist, telephone 07734 226601, www.gameforeverything.co.uk

■ Macknade Fine Foods, Selling Road, Faversham ME13 8XF. Telephone 01795 534497; www.macknadefinefoods.co.uk

Farmers' markets

Bromley

SITUATED in the pedestrianised area of the high street between the Churchill Theatre and Elmfield Road, this market takes place every Friday and Saturday between 9am and 5pm. It also features arts and craft stalls.

Challock

HELD in the village memorial hall from 1pm until 4pm on the first and third Fridays of the month, this market offers locally-produced goods such as fruit and vegetables and cheese, while one stall sells produce from the village gardens. Teas and cakes are also on sale.

Wye

THE Small Green in Wye is the venue for this market, which has been serving the community for more than 10 years, offering fresh bread, cakes, jams and chutneys as well as locally-produced organic meats, fresh fish and cheeses.

Warehorne

ESTABLISHED four years ago and held in the village hall, this market is run by volunteers and all proceeds go to the upkeep of the hall itself. It takes place on the fourth Sunday of the month between 10am and 12.30pm and has 15 to 20 stalls.

Yalding

NOW in its seventh year, this market takes place in the high street and is held on the third Saturday of every month. Produce on offer includes fruit and vegetables, bread, cheese, fresh meats and sausages, while organic foods are particularly popular.

St Margaret's

THE local nursery committee took over the running of this popular market eight years ago and it funds the nursery and activities for children. It offers fresh local produce and the money raised has helped many members of the community.

■ For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk

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On the menu...

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How to book...

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The High Street, St Lawrence,
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Tradition to get all the juices going

THE Sunday roast is a great tradition that originated in Britain and has now gone to many other parts of the world

It is popular throughout the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland.

There are a number of opinions on the origins of the Sunday roast. One states that during the industrial revolution, Yorkshire families left a cut of meat in the oven before going to church on a Sunday morning – this was then ready to eat by the time they arrived home at lunchtime.

The second opinion holds that the Sunday roast dates back to medieval times, when the village serfs served the squire for six days a week. Then on the Sunday, after the morning church service, serfs would assemble in a field to practise their battle techniques

and be rewarded with a feast of oxen roasted on a spit.

Typical meats used for a Sunday roast are beef, chicken, lamb or pork, although seasonally duck, goose, gammon, turkey or other gamebirds may be used.

There are vegetarian alternatives such as a nut roast, and recently other proteins such as halloumi have become available.

Meat can be served with a range of boiled and roasted vegetables. The vegetables served vary seasonally and regionally but usually include roast potatoes and gravy made from juices released by the roasting meat. The potatoes can be cooked around the meat, while the Yorkshire pudding is a popular addition. Vegetables are down to choice but can include peas, broad or runner beans, leeks or cauliflower.



Walpole Bay Hotel Cliftonville

Why here...

The Walpole living museum and its unique gallery of napkin art are special attractions. Resident pianist Nick Capocci plays from 1pm to 3pm after luncheon to entertain guests. A veranda overlooks the sea.

On the menu...

Five courses for £19.95, with children under 11 eating for £10.50. Choice of five starters, four roast meats, one fish and one vegetarian main course. Five dessert courses and cheese and biscuits.

How to book...

Book early for special luncheon by calling 01843 221703 to ensure your table is reserved.



Captain Digby Kingsgate

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The perfect place for Sunday lunch, with indoor and outdoor children's play areas along with face-painters at the weekend. Popular all year round for the whole family to enjoy a stress-free lunch. After lunch, why not take a walk along the cliff-top to see some of the fantastic views over Kingsgate Bay?

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On the menu...

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How to book...

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On the menu...

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How to book...

angeladdington@aol.co.uk 01732 842117; www.theangelinnaddington.co.uk. Addington Green, West Malling



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How to book...

To make bookings, call 01622 734334. Tudor Park, Ashford Road, Bearsted ME14 4NQ



Smugglers Birchington

Why here...

A Grade 2 mid-17th-century building offering locally-sourced and freshly-prepared food created by head chef Tim Rice in a classic yet modern setting on the Isle of Thanet.

On the menu...

Traditional Sunday lunch has a choice of eight starters, eight main courses and eight desserts. Two courses for £13.60 and three for £17.75. Full à la carte and specials board.

How to book...

To book, call 01843 841185 or email smugglers@fsmail.net; alternatively, visit www.smugglersbirchington.co.uk

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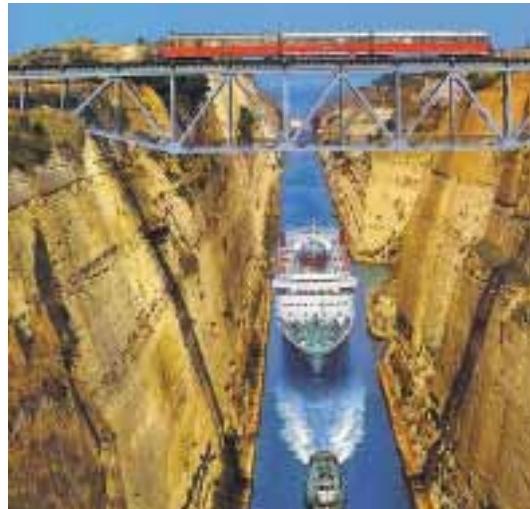
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Warner Norton Grange Resort, Isle of Wight - Over 40s only

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Join us for an early Christmas party on the Isle of Wight. We're bringing our usual

brand of fun and games to Norton Grange with plenty of festive entertainment and food on the menu. We've retained the popular Free Drinks so the party is bound to go with a swing.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- FREE drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday
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- Return rail travel to London
- All transfers abroad

Discover scrumptious cherries on this trail through the fruit bowl of Britain and the heart of Kent – the Garden of England

PASSING by immaculate orchards and idyllic villages, you'll be tempted to take home a punnet or two from this plush oasis of spring blossom and abundance of summertime treats.

In the country which produces some of Britain's finest beers, it is also never too far away that you won't find a welcoming inn, serving the best of produce from the farms and fields that give the area so much of its appeal.

And as the sun shines and the summer starts, you will be able to stand back and admire the Kentish countryside at its finest.

The trail begins in Teynham village, well known as the place where the first cherry orchard in Britain was planted by Richard Harrys, a fruiterer for Henry VIII.

While some areas of the once-expansive orchards that were planted have been built on, you don't have to walk very far before fruit trees greet you, lining the route through grazed pastures to the delightful coastal hamlet of Conyer.

Here, if you wish, you can take a detour to The Swale, which is an ideal place to watch birds in one of the more remote parts of the county following the Conyer loop.

You may also notice corn and strawberry fields as you make your way to Lewson Street and its impressive 13th-century pub, The Plough Inn.



IN THE LOOP:
Cherry orchards and the church in the pretty village of Lynsted are just a few of the sights on the Teynham trail

The inn is a great place to try the local food and beer, brewed from local hops and barley by Shepherd Neame, the country's oldest brewer, based in nearby Faversham.

Among the brews made locally are a special spring ale called Early Bird, available throughout May. Year-long Spitfire and Bishops Finger – named after the traditional Kent signpost – are always popular.

Here you have the choice of another detour taking in the pretty village of Lynsted, following the Lynsted loop.

On the final leg of the trail you will pass by

more orchards and arable land with small streams criss-crossing the landscape before emerging back into Teynham along the old Roman road.

Here there are some great pubs, such as The Dover Castle and The George, as well as restaurants and shops just waiting to be enjoyed.

Faversham itself is a small distance away and has a beautiful town square with small, characterful streets running off it.

The creek is a picturesque waterway thronged with boats and home to a number of unusual shops and smart places to eat and drink.



Faversham food and heritage

GET a taste for walking! Eight circular walks celebrating Faversham's food and drink heritage and natural beauty are launched this month. Free guided walks run daily from Saturday, May 7, to Sunday, May 15. Go to www.faversham.org/walking to download the walking guides; or, to book a place, email [enquiries.fep@faversham.org](mailto:fep@faversham.org) or phone 01795 539339.

■ Saturday, May 7

Two Creeks, Faversham to The Swale

Distance: Five miles, takes two hours and suitable for all fitness levels.

Taking in: Faversham, Thorn Creek, Oare and Davington

■ Sunday, May 8

Earth, Wind and Water

Distance: 11 miles, takes 4.5 hours (short-cut distance five miles), takes two hours and suitable for all fitness levels.

Taking in: Faversham, Goodnestone, Seasalter and Graveney.

■ Tuesday, May 10

Footsteps of Royalty and Romans

Distance: 6.25 miles, takes three hours and suitable for all fitness levels.

Taking in: Faversham, Ospringe, Painters Forstal and Brogdale.

■ Wednesday, May 11 **Syndale Valley**

Distance: 11 miles, takes 4.5 hours and suitable for more experienced walkers.

Taking in: Newham, Eastling, Stalisfield and Doddington

■ Thursday, May 12

First Fruit

Distance: 5.5 miles, takes three hours and suitable for all fitness levels.

Taking in: Teynham, Conyer, Lewson Street and Lynsted

■ Friday, May 13

A Walk on the Wild Side

Distance: 7.5 miles and takes 3.5 hours and suitable for all fitness levels.

Taking in: Faversham, Davington, Oare and Luddenham

■ Saturday, May 14

The Peasants' Last Revolt

Distance: 5.25 miles, takes 2.25 hours and suitable for all fitness levels.

Taking in: Boughton, Hernhill, Dargate and Dunkirk

■ Sunday, May 15

A Land for All Seasons

Distance: 9.25 miles and a challenging walk in places.

Taking in: Sheldwich, Selling, Perry Wood and Badlesmere.



WALKIES! There are eight free guided walks taking you through Faversham's heritage

Explore Kent

EXPLORE Kent is your one-stop shop for Kent's best walks, bike rides, horse rides and parks. With inspirational videos, a free iPhone map application, ideas for days out and much more, you can explore and enjoy Kent's countryside and coast.

Visit the website

www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent
Or telephone: 08458 247600 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)

NEXT WEEK: JOIN US ON THE NORTH DOWNS WAY NEAR DETLING

History Medieval jousting

Leeds Castle, nr Maidstone
 01622 765400 or
www.leeds-castle.com
 Open 10.30am to 5pm

THRILLING medieval jousting tournaments featuring knights on horseback battling it out will wow the crowds at Leeds Castle from Tuesday, May 31, to Sunday, June 5. The twice-daily displays will feature historic weaponry and jousting techniques, with the 900-year-old castle as a backdrop. A marquee with craft activities for children will also be open, as well as the World of Wings shows with falconry and free-flying bird displays in an arena from 1.30pm and 3.30pm daily excluding Tuesdays. The show features species from five continents, including storks, black kites, macaws, falcons, a bald eagle and a young brown wood owl flying overhead. And, of course, if that isn't enough, there is always the classic medieval maze.



Theme park Forces Day free tickets

Diggerland, near Strood
 0871 2277007 or
www.diggerland.com
 Open 10am to 5pm

Diggerland is giving away thousands of free tickets to the Armed Forces and their families. Saturday, June 25, will see our nation celebrate Armed Forces Day. From those currently serving to

ex-servicemen, cadets and the families of those in the forces, Armed Forces Day is an opportunity for everyone to celebrate the fantastic work that they do. To show its support, Diggerland is giving more than £35,000 worth of free-entry tickets to military personnel and with their families. Children and adults can ride and drive JCB diggers and dumpers. Visitors will be able to enjoy all the thrills and spills of Diggerland, "the ultimate adventure park experience". For the daring, have a go on the exclusively-designed mini

Land Rovers, or negotiate the course on the JCB Robots. Unique to Diggerland, ride the world famous Spindizzy, sit in the bucket of a JCB and be elevated and spun like crazy. Get a real JCB experience on a monster 3CX or Diggerland's Giant Dirt Diggers! More relaxed visitors can ride on Skyshuttle, which will lift you 50 feet into the air to enjoy awe-inspiring views. Current valid military photo ID will be required to be shown when arriving on the day, together with the pre-booked ticket. Early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.



Museum open Westgate Towers

Canterbury
 01227 789 576 or
www.canterburywestgatetowers.com, open 10am to 4.30pm

WESTGATE TOWERS, Canterbury's historic gatehouse, has reopened for the first time in almost two years. The site, the city's prison for four centuries, is now under new management. Last year Canterbury council agreed to lease the 600-year-old ragstone building to businessman Charles Lambie. Bob Collins, who will be the attendant, said: "It will be great to be there and able to tell people the inside story about this fantastic building. It's steeped in history – some of it a bit grim. It also means visitors can enjoy the incredible view across Canterbury from the roof of the 60ft towers, so high that they make Westgate the largest medieval gateway left in the country." Mr Lambie has also acquired the old music school next to the towers in Pound Lane and is returning the building to its former state as Canterbury's Victorian prison. The two historic gaols will form Canterbury's newest tourist attraction, complete with a glass-enclosed café in the old prison.



Scenery Admire early bluebell treat

Hole Park, Rovenden
 01580 241344 or
www.holepark.com
 Open 11am to 6pm

FOR the first time in years the bluebells at Hole Park have peaked in early April. The sea of blue arrived prematurely due to the unseasonably high temperatures. The gardens are open every day until the end of May for the annual spring spectacular. As well as the amazing display of

Gallery Explosion of volcanic art

Turner Contemporary, Margate
 01843 233 000 or
www.turnercontemporary.org

SPACE For The Imagination is a series of collaborative art performances on the theme of volcanoes. It draws on the fields of art, science, meteorology and astronomy. Artist Ilana Halperin, archaeologist Karen Holmberg and curator Andrew Patrizio present a performative lecture that examines the status of volcanoes in contemporary culture. The new gallery has a painting by Turner of a volcano erupting on the Caribbean island of St Vincent in 1812. The team will present their field notes from volcanic sites across the world, including Iceland and Hawaii. Representations of volcanoes will be compared to show how volcanic eruptions are scientifically, culturally, and personally significant events.

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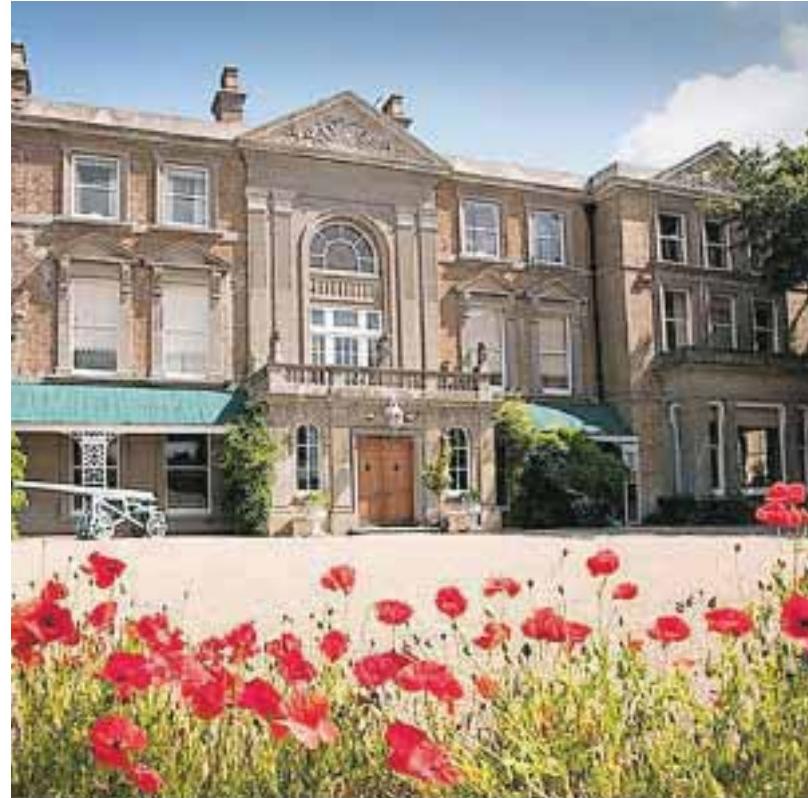
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- WW2 fighter aircraft & Field Guns*
- Amazing firework display*



History Edwardian wedding dress

Powell-Cotton Museum
 Quex House and Gardens
 Birchington
 Tel: 01843 842168

TO coincide with the royal wedding, the curators at the Powell-Cotton Museum near Birchington are taking visitors back to the Edwardian matrimonial era. A wedding dress worn by Hannah Brayton Slater in 1905 is now on display. Miss Brayton-Slater became the wife of Major Percy Powell-Cotton when she married him in Nairobi. Percy proposed to his secretary, whom he had left behind in England, in August 1904. She travelled from the UK with a lady chaperone and General Manning. Hannah wore a cream pleated-silk dress with matching hat and heavily-trimmed satin rose buds – it is now on display. Visit www.quxmuseum.org for details.



Motors show Birthday bash for supercars

Kit car event
 County Showground
 Detling, near Maidstone
 Saturday-Sunday, May 21-22

CELEBRATING its 21st birthday, this year the European Kit and Sports Car Show will boast some of the finest hand-built and replica supercars in the UK, as well

as new features such as live music, camping and drag-car demonstrations. You can keep the children amused with quadbike rides and the funfair while checking out some of the most beautiful kit cars around. For the real enthusiasts, there will be more than 30 manufacturers, 60 trade stands and 30 kit-car clubs to inspire you, alongside more than 400 privately-owned kit cars. Organiser John Cooke said: "The two-day Detling car show will be a motoring extravaganza, showcasing

the very best of the kit car world, with many new models and a wide range of design and performance that will suit every taste and build ambition."

This year's show will also launch three new cars: a mystery car from the Dutch company Faroux Sports Cars; the Spyder from Sammio; and Buggie Kings- ATV 4x4 buggies with the Route.

There will also be a large display of hot rods from the Invicta Roadsters Club and British Hot Rod Association. Visit www.car-shows.co.uk for more information.



Craft Back-to-front glass painting

Fenwick art room
 Canterbury
 Saturday, May 7
 Midday-3pm

AN artist who has developed a unique painting style on glass is coming to Canterbury. Richard Rowan paints his works using a back-to-front technique to create stunning landscapes. He will be demonstrating his work at the Fenwick store's art room on Saturday, May 7. His latest paintings have been inspired by movie soundtracks. While painting the images,

Rowan listens to one specific soundtrack over and over again to take him to the same emotive place at the start, middle and end of the painting. He said: "My paintings are full of drama. No matter what point I have reached in the painting, I need to feel the same inspiration from start to finish. I have a great love of films and the powerful and haunting film soundtracks created the perfect backdrop and mood for my work."

Rowan gave up a glamorous career in motorsport to follow his dream to become a full-time painter. He will be demonstrating his technique and signing work at the Fenwick art room from midday to 3pm.

To find out more about his work, visit www.washingtongreen.co.uk.

World folk Hut People on the move

The Hut People
 Equator Music Festival
 Ashford Youth Theatre
 Saturday, May 7, 7.30pm

FOLK duo The Hut People are bringing their sound to the Equator World Music Series. The band's varied blend of home-grown tunes mixed with British, Nordic and European folk music takes audiences on a voyage across the globe in an enthusiastic performance that is spontaneous, hilarious, engaging, fun and entertaining. The Hut People are dexterous accordion-player Sam Pirt, former Radio 2 folk award-winner and inventive percussionist Gary Hammond, former drummer with The Beautiful South. Their shows are acclaimed as being filled to the brim with spontaneity and humour and a commitment to getting the crowd involved. The Hut People are gaining a glowing reputation as one of the hottest and most entertaining folk acts touring today. They will be playing at the Ashford Youth Theatre, 1 Dover Place, on Saturday, May 7 at 7.30pm. Tickets £8, concessions £5. Visit www.equatorfestival.com for details.



Coming to Dartford soon...



Sue Langthorne, Mon 2 May



The Shaolin Warriors, Wed 4 May



The Naked Truth, Sat 7 May



Tue 10 - Sat 14 May



Tue 17 - Wed 18 May



Tue 8 May



The Best of The Eagles, Thu 10 May



Sun 8 May



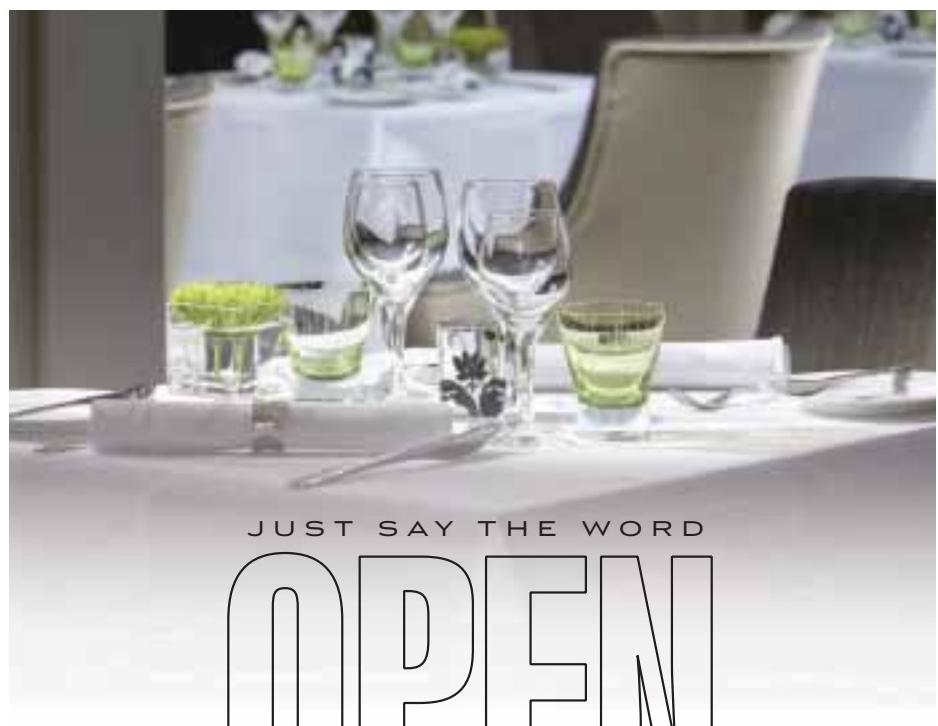
Feverish in Blue Jeans, Sun 15 May



Germaine Phinn, Tue 17 May

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Theatre Romans and Egyptians

Orchard Theatre, Dartford
 Tues, May 10, to Sat, May 14
 01322 220 000 or
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

THE Birmingham Stage Company brings its production of Horrible Histories to Kent. A double bill has been created, based on the award-winning books and TV shows by Terry Deary. They will cover the Egyptian and Roman eras. And Kent is no stranger to Roman invasion, with historical sites from the period across the county. Richborough Castle and Dartford's own Lullingstone Roman Villa both date to that time. Audiences will get the chance to see Caratacus fight the Romans in the battle of Medway in the Ruthless Romans play, plus the habits of evil emperors and gruesome gladiators as well as the terrible tactics of The Roman Army. Ground-breaking 3D special-effects.



Comedy What The Butler Saw

Trinity, Tunbridge Wells
 Until Saturday, May 7
 01892 678 678 or
www.trinitytheatre.net

JOE Orton's uproarious and outrageous satirical farce, What The Butler Saw, is one of the seminal works of modern stage comedy. It is set in the consulting room of Dr Prentice, whose interest in his female patients is far from solely clinical. When this physician, his wife, a secretary, a medical inspector, a policeman and a hotel porter collide, skeletons positively tumble out of the closet and the cases of mistaken identity and multiple personality pile up at breakneck, unrelenting speed. Throw into the mix a sprinkle of undressing, a smattering of cross-dressing and a touch of trouser-dropping, as well as poking fun at authority and hanging conventional morality upside-down, and the show has all the ingredients for a hilarious evening at the theatre. What The Butler Saw is the latest production being staged by Trinity Theatre's resident company in Tunbridge Wells. If you have a case of the post-Easter blues, then this is just what the doctor ordered!

Opera Festival of classics

Tonbridge Castle
 Thur, July 7 to Sat, July 9
 For tickets, call 01444 44300 or
www.tonbridgecastle.org

TONBRIDGE Castle will play host to a series of operatic evenings this summer as the Festival of Music and Fireworks gets a classical makeover from touring

company Opera Brava. The performances at Tonbridge Castle will feature singers who have performed with Covent Garden and English National Opera, and each evening's entertainment will be presented in full costume. The programme covers a range of tastes and there will be the opportunity to picnic on the castle lawn with tables and chairs.

Opera Brava is working with some 80 children aged seven to 13 from a local primary school to put on this special performance of The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe on

Thursday, July 7. On Friday, July 8, a chamber ensemble of musicians will provide what is billed as a perfect introduction to opera with The Magic Flute by Mozart.

Puccini's Nessun Dorma, the Pearl Fishers duet, the Rigoletto Quartet, Gershwin Melodies and a Gilbert & Sullivan medley will all feature in the Candlelit Gala Concert on Saturday, July 9. The evening will close with a fireworks display in the castle grounds to mark the end of the festival. All performances start at 7.30pm. Gates open at 5.30pm.



Jazz Kenny Ball and his men

Granville Theatre, Ramsgate
 Saturday, June 11, 7.30pm
 01843 591750 or
www.granvilletheatre.com

FOR 50 years, Kenny Ball has flown the flag for his particular brand of traditional jazz all over the world. It is a tribute to his stamina and musical integrity that Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen are as popular today as they were back in 1960, when they had their first chart hit with Samantha. From that time, hit after hit came along, with 14 Top 30 records, eclipsing even Kenny's idol, the great Louis



Armstrong. They included Midnight In Moscow, a Top 2 in both the UK and US charts. The band's popularity was enhanced further by a four-year spell on the Morecambe And Wise Show and Saturday Night at the Mill, both of which were viewed by millions.



Live music British Legion Concert Band

Canterbury Cathedral
 Saturday, May 7, 7.30pm
 01227 787787 or
www.newmarlowetheatre.org

LOCAL volunteers are the force behind the Canterbury Cathedral concert to celebrate the British Legion's 90th anniversary. The legion's flagship band are under the direction of Captain David Cole and playing a night of music

for the family. The concert is one of a series of events taking place this year as the legion looks to the needs of serving and ex-service military personnel. Keith Atkinson, chair of the group organising the concert, said: "As the legion marks its anniversary, we hope that, with public support, we can continue our work helping our Armed Forces family, in particular the Afghan generation. We've made a £50 million funding commitment to pay for the Royal British Legion Battle Back Centre and the operating costs of personnel recovery for 10 years."

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MARY 60, good for age, GSOH, likes cooking, meals out, looking for some fun company, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364357

TINKERBELLE seeks Peter Pan, I'm 36, 5ft 3ins, size 8-10 and am looking for a tall strong man who can connect and make me laugh. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358721

ATTRACTIVE warm, blonde female, European, 49, seeks honest, generous male, 50 plus who will take care of me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364277

FEMALE seeks kind, caring white male, 42-50, tidy and clean for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363197

BEAUTIFUL slim Malaysian female, 24, seeks relaxed solvent gent to spoil and pamper for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365135

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589

SLIM attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, sees caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571

SALLY independent, intelligent, confident, caring female, seeking a similar soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361243

UNIQUE attractive black female, 37, slim, enjoys music, reading, theatre nature. WLM genuine gent, 37-49 to share his/her life, caring, N/S who lives near London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815

ANNE 51, 5ft 3ins, medium build, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361243

FEMALE 25, professional, likes nights out, socialising, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360961

A rare diamond, bright, sparkly and good quality, let me put the sparkle back into your life. Wanted professional, attractive male, 38-58, medium build, 5ft 8ins. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361005

LADY slim, brunette, N/S, likes music, National Trust, theatre, days out, seeks sincere, honest gent, 48-60 for friendship, maybe more. Kent/Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360633

64YR old female, 5ft 2ins, GSOH, likes golf, seeks male with GSOH for friendship, days out, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339581

WARM well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477

BETH young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, happy size 14, N/S, many interests, seeks sincere, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344291

ATTRACTIVE lady, seeks kind, solvent male for romance and possibly love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360159

ISABELLE lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLM male for love, companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305

42YR old female, likes music, dancing, writing, astrology, cats, seeks male with GSOH and similar age. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351577

CARING young 62 petite blonde, seeks someone to share doing things with, theatre, dancing and perhaps nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359761

57YR old lady, works, divorced, likes beach, meals out, theatre, travel, week-ends away, seeks white male, 56-61 with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359685

YOUNG 51 year old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friend-ship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669

SALLY petite, confident lady, happy go lucky, likes dancing, walks, TV, seeks male/soul mate for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362665

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in; seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852

SUZANNE 35, beautiful blonde, seeks male for chats and a relaxing glass of wine anytime. ACA, status uninimportant. City area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342527

65YR old slim blonde, caring, loving, many interests, arts, computers, animals, cooking, seeks attractive, amenable male. Dog owner in Maidstone perfect. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363876

FEMALE 27, seeks older gent, 65 plus to take care of me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362207

CLARE 51, seeks similar mate, for love, seeks genuine gent, 60-70 N/S for happy loving, exciting times. Gravesend. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353111

SIMPLE mum, 39, likes most things seeks male with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349999

OLDFASHIONED female, 49, fun, friendly seeks mature male for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382192

GENUINE loving female, 40, seeks lov-ing male, 40-50 for friendship and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 345487

LADY seeks N/S, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty attractive, slim, curvy lady of 65 who has not yet joined the wrinkles. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347215

ATTRACTIVE slim single mum, 44, seeks similar tall male, 40-50, caring, loving and loyal, are you? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334393

SARAH 37, caring, kind, seeks fun, caring guy, 37-49. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346319

NATALIA attractive, brunette, brown eyes, 40's, N/S, slim, fit, friendly, seeks sincere, N/S, solvent male for love and relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381803

ATTRACTIVE caring, interesting black lady, seeks educated, genuine, white male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358937

PROFESSIONAL attractive, friendly black British female, mid 40's, size 10-12 likes nationality, seeks sincere male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360037

CUDGY curly size 14 plus female looking for gent, 59-65 for daytime, adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358729

BEDFORDSHIRE female, 39, HIV positive, likes cinema, music, travel, nights in, wine bars, seeks decent, white, professional male, under 45. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358579

LISA 42, medium build, likes cooking, walks, music, days in/out, WLM car-ing, down to earth male, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332817

28YR old blonde, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380918

OUTGOING sincere 5ft 6ins lady WLM tall, caring interesting male 70's to share lots of adventure. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357959

FEMALE lady knows how to treat her male seeks strong minded male to care for, any area. London/Surrey/Kent Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356985

POLITE bubbly female, GSOH, seeks gent for friendship, likes nights in and socialising. Dartford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382666

SEALED with a kiss, 37y old single mum, blonde hair, blue eyes, curly likes sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armor, wants to laugh and spot me. Folkestone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355543

LADY 44, GSOH, short, curly, dark hair, seeks good guy for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355995

CAROLE petite, slim, long blonde hair, likes sports, meets out, cinema, theatre, music, seeks genuine, honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353391

TALL 51, slim blonde, just 21yrs seeks older male who knows what's what, show me the ways of the world. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356969

ACADEMIC man sought by female, recent graduate, interested history, psychology, likes usual activities as London art galleries and walls. Brimley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355203

DEBBIE mid 50's, attractive, likes dancing, music, cinema, theatre, seeks male for companionship. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356501

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354953

ATTRACTIVE black lady, 5ft 6ins, black hair, slim, kissable lips, likes walks, horse riding, go carts, seeks professional white male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins-6ft. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353897

SUSIE 51yrs, blonde, seeks educated attractive male for loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360947

BLACK female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365079

FUN loving curvy red head 23yrs, loves good food/wine. WLM male who appreciates a real woman and knows what he likes. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365077

30YR old blonde fit, feminine, attractive, free, single and looking for love with similar loving guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356075

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. Hazel eyes, seeks similar. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353613

36YR old housewife looking for mutual companionship with discreet understanding man stuck in a similar rut. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356431

LORNA 66, nurse, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364237

FEMALE 64, brown/grey hair, medium build, honest, caring, loving, seeks similar in male, 30-40 for friendship/relationship. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364253

LOOKING for my soul mate, 57, lonely, caring, affectionate, likes a drink in good company. 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, seeks someone to share life with. Is that you? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385172

BARBRA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701

NATALIA attractive, brunette, brown eyes, 40's, N/S, slim, fit, friendly, seeks sincere, N/S, solvent male for love and relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356983

PROFESSIONAL black lady, 44, 5ft 3ins, medium build, seeks genuine, caring, professional guy, 40-54, any race for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359586

MALE Guardian reader? Arty, vivacious female, 61, happy in own skin, seeks N/S sociable, warm, loving man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360655

COULD you capture my heart? Lyn 49, slim, romantic, likes simple things, conversation, walks, flowers, seeks romantic guy to share my journey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356981

PROFESSIONAL black lady, 44, 5ft 3ins, medium build, seeks genuine, caring, professional guy, 40-54, any race for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356421

KIND affectionate male, seeks like-minded lady. Tonbridge/Somerseats. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365318

BUBBLY outgoing nurse, (I love my uniform), fancy meeting up North London for some fun loving fun! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356421

ATTRACTIVE lady, curvy and fun, looking for an uncomplicated fun only relationship, after work etc, any area London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356591

HAPPY 27, seeks male for fun, and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356931

BEAUTIFUL slim female, 20, seeks older, solvent gent 55 plus for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357327

LORRAINE seeks trustworthy white male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365793

DONNA 35, single mum of 3, seeks male with GSOH, 35-40. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385064

CRYSTAL 5ft 5ins, long dark hair, hazel eyes, olive skin, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383374

HANDSOME black male, seeks lovely lady for ongoing friendship and relationship. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385496

ATTRACTIVE confident, lady, 37, inde-pendent, HIV Positive, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363415

48YR old female, average build, good looking, likes most things, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363321

FUN outgoing lady, seeks spontaneous male, 37-60, adventurous, professional, attractive. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363331

JANE 27, caring, bubbly, likes nights out, cinema, buying, DVD's, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356203

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who likes talks, walks, dining and dancing. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975

PRETTY woman, slim, black, wedge, 39, energetic, seeks white, solvent male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360695

GORGEOUS lonely lass, 45, looking for some romantic liaisons with younger male, looks important, no chancers. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364415

SOUTH hair, tall, slim, full figure with long hair, curves in all the right places. Willing to meet any age for fun, friend-ship and more Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356089

YOUNG at heart 50's tall, slim, blue eyed blonde, honest, caring, seeks male who likes most things in life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356092

SOUTH hair, tall, slim, full figure with long hair, curves in all the right places. Willing to meet any age for fun, friend-ship and more Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356093

VICKY attractive, kind, down to earth, black British, likes travel, writing, reading, cooking, socialising, seeks generous, good man who is considerate, intelligent. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353037

CAROLE petite, blonde, green eyes, attractive, 46, likes sports, gym, sauna, likes night in, sees male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358466

41YR old lady, young at heart, blue eyes, long dark hair, seeks fun loving guy with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346537

FUN loving student, 21yrs, seeks male of any age for fun in London, Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356537

FOREIGN beauty, long, long hair, 20's, seeks older male who can spoil someone like me. London area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356967

ATTRACTIVE black male, 31, medium build, well spoken, seeks female, 18-35, slim-medium build for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365421

27YR old male, seeks female for fun and friendship, 24-40. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365421

ATTRACTIVE lady, curvy and fun, looking for an uncomplicated fun only relationship, after work etc, any area London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365421

COULD you capture my heart? Lyn 49, slim, romantic, likes simple things, conversation, walks, flowers, seeks romantic guy to share my journey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356981

HANDY male, 52, 5ft 8ins, large build, smoker, seeks female, 30-60 for fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 268754

ASHFORD male 64, cuddly, easygoing, GSOH, seeks warm lady for friendship, laughs, days out, lunch or dinner, summer is here. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365531

MICHAEL attractive fit, 70, widowed, GSOH, seeking company, Sidcup/Bromley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365193

SINGLE professional male, 39, likes pubs, meals out, cinema, seeks petite female, 30-40 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365527

AGE is just a number. Tall active 70's male, seeks curvy lady for occasional days/night time fun. NW London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365159

NICE looking fellas, 45, 6ft, slim, fit, open-minded, no baggage, seeks genuine, relaxed, sexy female with similar outlook for all the good stuff and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365481

MISSING you tonight. British Indian, 39, 5ft 11ins, likes nights out, good food, seeks interesting, bubbly lady with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365081

RAOIL Indian, 28, open-minded, seeks male for friendship, meals out, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365465

TALL dark handsome male, athletic, stocky, tanned, helpful, generous. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365437

HUNKY male, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, 5ft 8ins, loving, bubbly, talkative, outgoing, theatre, holidays, travel, walks, countryside, seeks female for relationship. 39-57. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365117

HUNKY male, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, 5ft 8ins, loving, bubbly, talkative, outgoing, theatre, holidays, travel, walks, countryside, seeks female for relationship. 39-57. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365117

HUNKY male, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, 5ft 8ins, loving, bubbly, talkative, outgoing, theatre, holidays, travel, walks, countryside, seeks female for relationship. 39-57. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365117

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HUNKY male, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, 5ft 8ins, loving, bubbly, talkative, outgoing, theatre, holidays, travel, walks, countryside, seeks female for relationship. 39-57. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365117

LATE 40's female, likes most things, ani-mals, walks, cinema, seeks male, 45-50 for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348941

FEMALE black, Caribbean, honest, easygoing, single mum, seeks male, 35-40 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360722

56YR old female, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, N/S, likes socialising, cards, dancing, racket ball, seeks male, 50-65. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353773

ATTRACTIVE vibrant mid 60's female, independent, likes music, travel, socialising, seeks male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384766

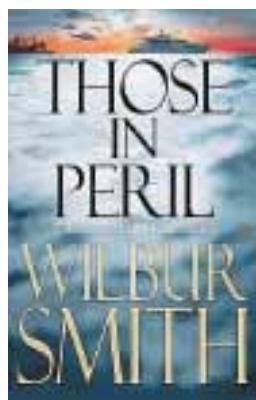
KATHY long blonde hair, blue eyes, 60, likes motown music, nights in/out, sees male, 47-62. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361797

MARY 62, 5ft 3ins, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes nights in/out, sees honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359467

CAROLE attractive, petite, blonde, green eyes, 48, seeks male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384488

VICKY attractive, kind, down to earth, black British, likes travel, writing, reading, cooking, socialising, seeks generous, good man who is considerate, intelligent. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351019

MIC 37, good looking, dark, fit, blue eyes, seeks attractive female, 3



Those In Peril

Wilbur Smith

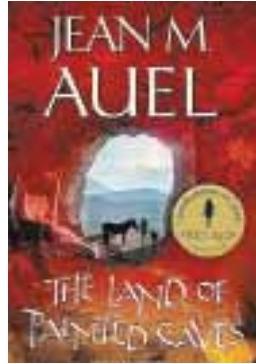
Macmillan, £18.99

THIS veteran has had success with a wide range of historical, adventure and thriller books since the publication of his first novel in 1964.

Those In Peril is an all-out action adventure about modern-day piracy in Somalia, following the wealthy oil mogul Hazel Bannock as she employs her chief of security Hector Cross to rescue her kidnapped daughter.

A romance blossoms between the two as they take the fight to the pirates, adding depth to the novel amid the explosions, gunfire and murder, but the characters are all too often neglected in favour of the action.

This is a fast-paced thriller with lots to keep action junkies happy, but the dialogue is sloppy and there is a lot of technical waffle.



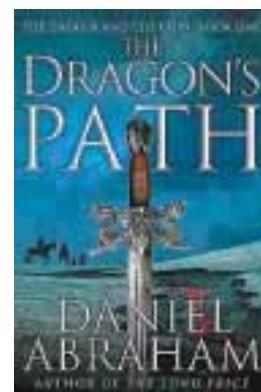
The Land of Painted Caves

Jean M Auel

Hodder & Stoughton, £19.99

IT is hard to believe that a story about an Ice Age romance could gain such a following that it achieved cult status.

Even the creator of the series, a quick-witted, homely 75-year-old, remains amazed at the success of her series, which began 30 years ago.



The Dragon's Path

Daniel Abraham

Orbit, £12.99

DANIEL Abraham is a rarity among epic-fantasy-writers in showing no apparent debt to JRR Tolkien.

Unlike the usual Europe-derived settings, his Long Price quartet has an Eastern flavour, telling a richly evocative tale.

This book begins a new series, The Dagger And The Coin where bankers are just as dangerous as warriors.

We follow four characters whose stories interlock; two are old men set in their ways, two are young and about to make their first big mistakes. Each has a part to play as war slides towards catastrophe.



The Happy Hoofer

Celia Imrie

Hodder & Stoughton, £20

ON the surface, Celia Imrie is wholeheartedly the same

so far, the books, written by the author from Portland, Oregon, have sold a staggering 45 million copies.

The tales feature Ayla, an orphan human taken in by Neanderthals. They are set 30,000 years ago, but the author gives them a contemporary twist, with a woman juggling work with looking after family.

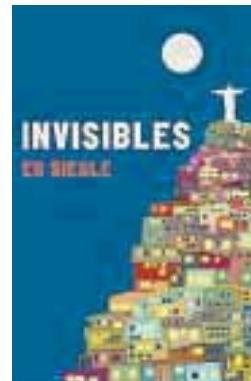
comedic actress who won admirers playing everyone from lovelorn Miss Babs in Acorn Antiques to a member of the Women's Institute posing behind a display of cherry-topped cupcakes in Calendar Girls.

She's pixie-like and posh at the same time. But scratch a little deeper and it's clear that Imrie relishes the unconventional and embraces the eccentric, her mind always open to opportunities and her glass most definitely half-full.

Her autobiography, The Happy Hoofer, is a journey from her upper-class upbringing through a career on stage and screen.

The 58 year-old actress is eager to stress that the book is not a depressing read.

It covers her early dance ambitions, struggle with anorexia, tours with the Royal Shakespeare Company and television career. It also covers two pulmonary embolisms in quick succession in 2005 which left her at death's door.



The Invisibles

Ed Siegle

Myriad Editions, £7.99

THE most surprising fact about this story of identity is that it is a debut novel.

From the first chapter, the richness of Brighton-based author Ed Siegle's plot, as well as his instantly charming characters, pull you in and don't let you go.

Travelling from the calm, pebbly shores of Brighton to the pulsating beats of Rio de Janeiro, we follow 35-year-old dentist Joel Burns on his 25-year journey to discover what really happened to his father.

Watching footage of a bus hijack in Rio, Joel sees what he believes to be the face of his father. The last he and his mother heard of him after leaving the city was that he was dead.

Brimming with lush descriptions, the book clearly evokes Siegle's own travels. A satisfying and engaging story about the reality of one man's childhood memories, this is a fantastic read.



Folk Fairport Convention

Folk Barn, Canterbury

Wednesday, May 4, Tickets £18 01227 831493 or www.folkinthebarn.co.uk

FAIRPORT Convention are one of the greatest live bands on today's concert circuit. Their sell-out gigs attract critical acclaim and delight audiences. The band will be playing at the Folk Barn in Canterbury. The concert, by the band's acoustic line-up, presents a more intimate take on their music. The group's repertoire mixes established favourites with new songs and the concert will feature Simon Nicol on guitar and lead vocals, Dave Pegg on bass and backing vocals, Chris Leslie on fiddle, mandolin and lead vocals, Ric Sanders on violin and Gerry Conway on percussion. Fairport Convention have won a coveted BBC Lifetime Achievement Award and their album Liege & Lief was voted the most influential folk album of all time. Whether you are a devoted fan or a newcomer to their music, this Fairport Acoustic Convention concert will be very special.



New bands Local & Live

High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells

Friday, May 6, 7.30pm Tickets £10, 01892 535732 or www.localandlive.org

IN a bid to raise some much-needed funding for this year's Local & Live Music festival, organiser Paul Dunton is staging a taster event at The High Rocks showcasing a selection of leading acts from this year's event including

popular local groups such as Origami Dinosaur, The Charlie Rivers Band and special guests My Preserver. Paul said: "Local & Live 2011 promises to be a fantastic event once again. However, the current financial climate has made things a little harder in terms of securing a headline sponsor and grant-funding. On the positive side we are currently in talks with several companies. The taster evening will showcase our headline acts and hopefully raise some funds for the event in August."

Instrumental John Williams classical

Astley Hall, Maidstone

Tuesday, May 10, 7.30pm 01622 758611 or www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

REKNOWNED guitarist John Williams has joined instrumental genius Richard Harvey for a much anticipated charity gig. Williams, described as one of the finest guitarists around, will host the concert to raise cash for the Kent Music charity. This extraordinary combination of world music and classical pieces has charmed and excited audiences in more than 20 cities. This is dazzling music from five continents and five centuries.

Intriguing murder mystery might muddle your morals



The Shadow Line

Thursday, May 5, 9pm BBC Two

THE Shadow Line is a major new drama serial created by Hugo Blick for BBC Two. A sophisticated conspiracy thriller in seven parts that brings to life a cinematic world of blurred morality and the conflicted characters who inhabit it, it features a star-studded cast, including Chiwetel Ejiofor, Christopher Eccleston, Sir Antony Sher and Stephen Rea.

When police officers discover the body of a man shot at close range, they soon realise the victim is Harvey Wratten, head of one of the UK's largest crime organisations. Having served two years of an 18-year sentence for his part in importing £11 million of heroin into the country, Wratten had only just been released from jail under the rarely-obtained royal pardon.

Assigned to investigate Wratten's death is Detective Inspector Jonah Gabriel (Ejiofor), in his first case since being shot during a botched police operation that left his partner dead. He has amnesia, caused by the bullet still lodged in his brain and leaving him doubtful of his own moral compass. His colleagues view him with suspicion.

Gabriel has to follow an increasingly complicated line of investigation, all the while wondering whether he can trust anyone, not least himself. On the other side of the line is Joseph Bede (Eccleston), an associate of Wratten's who had a legitimate fruit and flower business during Wratten's time in prison.

Now, driven by a profound personal tragedy, Joseph finds himself planning one last deal: a massive drugs operation that he is desperate to see through so he can retire and step out of the business for ever. Watching from the shadows is the lethal puppet-master – Gatehouse (Rea). He knows how to find people. He knows their secrets and he'll find them at their most vulnerable.

As Gabriel unravels the threads around Wratten's organisation, the web of intrigue becomes complex and the line that divides the players becomes increasingly blurred.



WHODUNNIT? Chiwetel Ejiofor and Christopher Eccleston star in BBC's hard-nosed murder drama

Join an astonishing voyage through the inner you

THIS accessible and engaging four-part series explores the wonders of the human body. Using spectacular graphics based on real images and the latest scientific research, Michael Mosley takes us on a fantastic voyage through the workings of our own, inner universe.

As we travel through the human body we see tiny clusters of hairs that loom as large as a forest and hidden chambers of heart that rise up like a vast cathedral. To illustrate some of the surprising ways our bodies work, the series also

Inside The Human Body

Thursday, May 5, 9pm, BBC One

tells stories of remarkable people from around the world who have pushed their bodies to the absolute limit. From the moment of creation to our last breath, the series reveals the human body's infinite ability to amaze and delight.

In episode one, Michael Mosley tells the story of your creation. He brings to life medical research, revealing the improbable sequence of

events that led to your birth.

Using graphics, we journey with millions of sperm on their dangerous race towards the egg, discover the ingenious ways that the woman's body selects the very best, see a body begin to self-assemble and, in a television first, watch a human face come together. Throughout the programme we follow the progress of a couple who are expecting triplets – from the 4D scan when they first come face to face with their babies to a dramatic finale, the birth.



HOW? The secrets behind the bouncing bomb

The Dambusters and the scientist

Building The Bouncing Bomb

Saturday, May 7, 7pm, Channel Four

THE Channel Four documentary looks into visionary aircraft designer Barnes Wallis, who in 1939 designed a very special bomb that would bounce across water and destroy German dams. The raid in 1943 was a success and a 1950s feature film carried the Dambusters story into British legend.

The science behind the bouncing bomb is highly complex, and many of Barnes Wallis's vital calculations and notes have been lost in the years since his invention was completed.

But Cambridge engineer Dr Hugh Hunt attempts to solve the mystery of exactly how Wallis did it. Starting from scratch, he rediscovers the brilliance of Wallis's achievement when he tries to hit a makeshift dam with a bouncing bomb.

It is the first time this warfare tactic has been attempted since the war. Dr Hunt will be assisted by dam engineers, explosives experts, mechanics and pilots who specialise in low-altitude flying.

A vintage Second World War aircraft is modified to carry a bomb the size of an oil-drum. It then flies dangerously low over a Canadian lake and tries to release the bomb at the perfect point so that it bounces across the water on to a specially-constructed 130ft-wide dam. If they're successful, they'll blow the dam sky-high.

No CGI, no special effects; this is for real. The film also interweaves the fascinating historical story of Barnes Wallis and 617 Squadron with this present-tense narrative.

The experiment is complex and the low-flying style is extremely risky and makes for a thrilling documentary. Can history be repeated?

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OUR TOP FIVE

1 Red Riding Hood
(12A) Valerie (Amanda Seyfried) lives in a village plagued by a werewolf. Every full moon, the locals tether a pig to a stake as a sacrifice and lock their doors. When the beast claims the life of Valerie's sister under a blood-red moon, werewolf-hunter Father Solomon (Gary Oldman) vows to unmask the killer. Love triangles and bloodshed ensue.

2 The Roommate
(15, 91 min) Sara Matthews (Minka Kelly) leaves her troubles and starts anew at the University of LA, where she is welcomed by her wealthy roommate Rebecca (Leighton Meester). Friendship blossoms and Sara heals her wounded heart in the arms of hunky freshman Stephen (Cam Gigandet). Then life begins to spiral out of control.

3 Rio 3D (U) The latest animated movie from the makers of the Ice Age series, Rio is a feel-good movie which has thrills, spills and plenty of humour. Blu (voiced by Jesse Eisenberg) is a domesticated blue macaw living a relative life of luxury in sleepy Moose Lake, Minnesota. His life takes a turn when he meets feisty Jewel (Anne Hathaway) and takes off to Rio with the bird of his dreams.

4 Island (12A) Elizabeth Mitchell and Brek Taylor direct this adaptation of the novel by Jane Rogers about a mentally unstable woman's journey into the heart of darkness. Nikki Black (Natalie Press) was abandoned at birth by her mother and left in so-called care, where she escaped harsh reality by immersing herself in fairytales. A tale of paranoia and rejection ensues.

5 Killing Bono (15) Brothers Neil (Ben Barnes) and Ivan (Robert Sheehan) go to the same school as Paul Hewson (Martin McCann). The brothers form their own band, while Paul forms U2, the band that would transform Hewson into his musical alter-ego, Bono. Neil covets his friend's newfound celebrity and, as the band goes through various guises, he conceals how close Ivan came to being in U2.

NEW RELEASES

**Arthur****12A, 110mins**

MONEY makes the world go round, but it can't buy you love or a flawless update of the Oscar-winning 1981 comedy starring Dudley Moore as the eponymous billionaire and Sir John Gielgud as his long-suffering, strait-laced butler.

Director Jason Winer and screenwriter Peter Bayham cast Russell Brand as their loveable yet irresponsible man-child whose limitless fortune allows him to circumvent the laws that keep the rest of society in check.

Unlike his predecessor, Brand doesn't possess the innate vulnerability or charm

that compelled us to care for Arthur as he boozed himself towards oblivion. Instead, this new version opts for risqué humour and pop culture references and a crunching appearance by the Batmobile in the opening sequence.

Crucially, Winer's film chooses a female nanny to keep Arthur out of trouble, casting Oscar-winner Helen Mirren in this pivotal role.

She brings gravitas to the part and nabs many of the best lines, gently tugging the heartstrings when the friendship with herreckless ward is tested to its limit.

Arthur Bach (Brand) is heir to his family's vast fortune, presided over by his emotionally cold mother,

Vivienne (Geraldine James). The headline-grabbing antics of her son threaten the public image of Bach Worldwide, and Vivienne summons Arthur to her office. "I remember you from when I used to live in your womb," he grins cheekily.

Vivienne informs Arthur that he will marry corporate executive Susan Johnson (Jennifer Garner) to ensure she can take charge of the company. If Arthur refuses, he will be cut off from his inheritance and the lifestyle he has known since birth.

Arthur resigns himself to marital hell, only to run into tour guide and aspiring author Naomi (Greta Gerwig) outside Grand Central Station. She has no clue who he is, and he

responds warmly to her quirky sense of humour. Soon after, Arthur tries to persuade his mother to let him marry for love, not financial security. "I respect your integrity. You just lost 950 million dollars," threatens Vivienne.

So Arthur goes ahead with the nuptials while secretly seeing Naomi, aided and abetted by his nanny Hobson (Mirren) and chauffeur.

Arthur boasts some nice moments, most of them involving Mirren and Brand, whose rapport sustains interest through the unwieldy 110-minute running time.

Brand's tomfoolery skirts brashness and sexual chemistry with Gerwig simmers but never quite boils.

Fast & Furious 5**12A, 130mins**

If the law of diminishing returns of sequels holds true, then Fast & Furious 5 should be running on exhaust fumes and destined to fail its MOT.

Instead, the turbo-charged fifth chapter of the franchise soups up the usual high-octane kit with an Ocean's Eleven-style heist and some of the best action sequences to date. Turbo-injected stunts, including an outrageous sequence of two cars towing a bank vault through the streets of Rio de Janeiro, feature throughout.

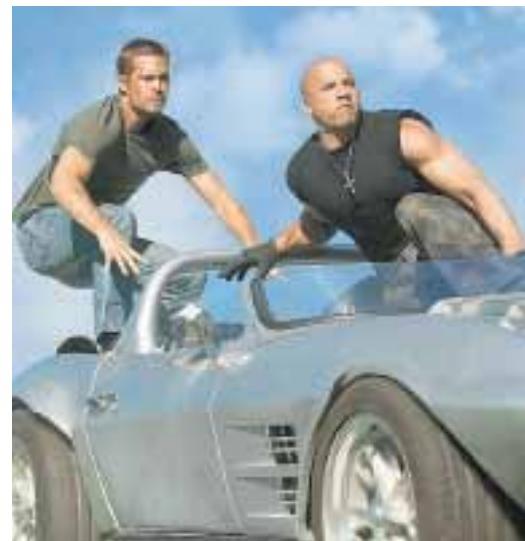
Former cop Brian O'Conner (Paul Walker) and lover Mia Toretto (Jordana Brewster) spring her brother Dominic

(Vin Diesel) from a prison bus before hiding out in Rio with Dom's friend, Vince (Matt Schulze).

The fugitives are double-crossed by a drug lord and vow revenge by plotting to steal \$100 million of his ill-gotten gains. Meanwhile, federal agent Luke Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson) and his crew give chase.

With your brain idling in neutral, Fast & Furious 5 is well-tuned escapism that delivers all of the macho posturing and automotive carnage we have come to expect.

Diesel and Walker have given up the pretence of trying to act and occasionally nod or smirk at the camera as their indestructible wheel men put the pedal to the metal.



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£18

www.primark.co.uk

As the merry month of May comes along, fashion houses and high-street stores take the opportunity to refresh what ranges they have on offer to reflect the season of spring. Colourful bright fabrics and floral designs are in with an eye to the beach, parties and outdoor dining. So now is the chance to get that look you've always wanted to welcome in warm days, balmy nights, holidays and the great outdoors.



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Sunglasses
These will keep you cool in the warm in a retro floral design by Tesco
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www.tesco.com/clothing

Bangle
Primark has this bangle in store now
£2

www.primark.co.uk

Fringe bag
An accessory to grace any spring outfit
£8

www.primark.co.uk



Khaki dress

This khaki dress with lace trim from Fifty Plus is part of the company's spring collection

£42

www.fiftyplus.co.uk



Sleevetop

A spring-style sleevetop is practical and full of style. Available from Fifty Plus, which has just released its spring catalogue

£40

www.fiftyplus.co.uk



Jumpsuit and croc-print clutch

This jumpsuit at £40 and croc-print clutch for £16 by Club Tropicana really suggest that summer is on its way

www.awear.com



Belt

Next designed this stylish belt with spring in mind

£6

www.next.co.uk



Colourful necklace

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Cardigan £20; trousers £15

www.mamasandpapas.com

**Sunglasses**

Sunglasses keep you cool in summer and this pair are available from George at Asda.

£2.50

www.george.com

**Kaftan and flip-flops**

A kaftan with belt and a pair of flip-flops are casual and chic. Available from Heatons.

Kaftan £10; flip-flops £1.75

www.heatonsstores.com

**Top and shorts**

A floral top and denim shorts make for a stylish yet practical get-up. Available from Mamas and Papas.

Top £32; shorts £28

www.mamasandpapas.com

**Make-up pallet**

A make-up pallet will ensure you look your best while on your travels. Available from Marks and Spencer stores.

£7.50

www.marksandspencer.com

**Shorts**

These stylish shorts from George at Asda are ideal for beach or leisure wear.

£6

www.george.com

**Tent**

This tent from Woolworths is available via the former store's online retail and sleeps six.

£249

www.woolworths.co.uk

Adapt just one wall to add all the extra space you could need for your home

BEING cooped up indoors all winter may just highlight a need for more space. If you don't want to move house, though, give some thought to adding another room to your property instead.

The contemporary orangeries from Elephant are entirely bespoke and an ideal way to introduce more space without having to sacrifice your garden.

Choosing a wall of Elephant's bi-folding aluminium doors means the space has a dual function: close them and you gain an indoor dining room, playroom or kitchen, leave them open and your garden becomes an extension of your living space.

Because Elephant manufactures everything itself, you can pick different colour finishes for the inside and out to ensure the orangery complements your home.

Elephant will project-manage the whole thing, from lighting to landscaping, so taking a massive weight off your mind.

Conservatories are one of the best ways to give your home that all-important light and airy feeling.

As a place to relax with large windows, they allow a view out to the garden, so increasing the idea of space in the home and making a connection between the interior and exterior space.

They are also ideal for entertaining, especially in the summer months when doors can be left open, making for a seamless transition between the home and the outside, enabling the party or other social event to spill out of the house into the sunshine.

With the addition of plants and carefully-arranged furniture, they can add markedly to the style and individuality of any home as well as considerably increasing its value.

The addition of a drinks cabinet is always welcome, especially when the room is used for entertaining guests, and a dining table can also be used to give something of an alfresco feel to meals taken in the room rather than in a more formal home setting.

Elephant staff are experts in providing exactly what is needed to give the home that little bit extra when it comes to conservatories with style.

The company has a wealth of experience and has seen how changing fashions in home design can be incorporated into the different styles offered to give each design its unique points and make each creation something to be admired – the final results being a proud addition to any house.

- All projects are bespoke.
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- Elephant has almost 40 years of experience.
- All products are guaranteed for 10 years.
- The project is managed from start to finish.

■ **For more information, call 0800 195 0000 or visit Elephantwindows.co.uk**



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The Old Rectory Brenzett

£750,000

■ FIVE BEDROOMS ■ SITTING ROOM
■ DINING ROOM ■ STUDY ■ BREAKFAST
ROOM ■ KITCHEN ■ BATHROOM
■ 1.3 ACRES

THE Old Rectory is a particularly handsome Victorian house built in 1869 and set in delightful grounds that extend to 1.3 acres in Brenzett on Romney Marsh.

The house is approached along a tree-lined driveway that arrives at a gravel parking area in front of the building and continues to the left-hand side of the property where it leads to a double garage. The superbly-tended gardens offer a high degree of privacy, being some distance from near neighbours and having natural copse along the lane.

There are open views to a paddock, which is often occupied by the sheep for which Romney Marsh is famous. Also close by is the picturesque medieval village church of St Eanswythe.

The home has been extensively refurbished and is at the pinnacle of its excellence. No expense of effort has been spared in reproducing the grandeur of the Victorian styles and combining these themes with the practicalities expected in a 21st-century dwelling.

The home has double-glazed windows, closely matching the style of the original sashed ones, a security alarm system and modern oil-fired



Restored to former glory

central heating with an efficient condensing boiler.

The swimming pool measures 30ft x 15ft and has a heat-pump system to keep the water warm. An inflated dome keeps the area clean and allows usage all year round.

The present owners tell how much they love the home...

"This is a truly beautiful location," Josephine says. "The gardens are an absolute delight, especially throughout the spring and summer, and a haven for wildlife."

"I love the trees which give us so much privacy and frame the open views across the surrounding countryside. They add height to the landscape and give us interesting views from every window. As well as adding another dimension to the grounds, the trees attract a wide variety of birds."

"When we moved here, the house was sadly a little the worse for wear," says Alan. "We have spent practically 16 years restoring The Old Rectory to its former glory. Much of our work lies beneath the surface – the roof required extensive repairs and virtually all the walls and ceilings have been replastered."

"Once the new windows were fitted, a rewire and an overhaul of the central-heating system were behind us, we could concentrate on bringing some of the original character back in."

"The most satisfying part is seeing it all come together, fitting a new kitchen, creating period-style bathrooms and finally completing



the redecoration of the whole house, in keeping with the Victorian and Edwardian eras."

"We are extremely pleased with the results of all the hard work. The whole experience of giving The Old Rectory a new lease of life was definitely worth the effort required to create a comfortable period-style family home that is a joy to live in and one that we feel the new owners will appreciate as much as we do."

While enjoying a peaceful and rural location, the home is not cut off from amenities. The village primary school is half a mile away and there is an excellent choice of state and independent schools in and around Hythe, Folkestone and Ashford. The area still has grammar schools for both boys and girls.

Ashford has excellent shopping facilities, including a shopping centre hosting many high-street names. It also boasts a designer outlet offering goods at bargain prices.

For leisure time there are restaurants, bars and pubs and a large cinema offering multiple screens. It is also touted as "Europe's Best Placed" because of its communications to both the rest of the UK and continental Europe.

Romney Marsh itself is one of the most interesting areas in England, with its legends of smuggler Dr Syn, the steam locomotives of the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway and excellent birdwatching around Dungeness. ■ Viewing through Fine & Country in Canterbury: phone 01227479317 or visit www.fineandcountry.com.



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WALK IN THE PARK: Properties near Dane John Gardens, one of Canterbury's most popular parks

Cathedral is only part of the story

THE past and present combine to give one of England's most famous cities its unique ambience and provide an excellent home base for those who appreciate the finer things in life.

Canterbury has a wealth of history and culture for people to discover and the skyline is dominated by the stunning cathedral, the oldest in England.

But the cathedral is only part of the story – the ancient ruins of St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church form Canterbury's World Heritage Site, while other ancient ruins such as the castle are reminders of the city's rich heritage.

Although Canterbury is a place steeped in tradition, it is also a modern and vibrant city with luxury hotels, fine restaurants serving food from across the globe, lively nightclubs and welcoming pubs.

They all combine to give a complete experience of the best of past and present for residents and visitors alike.

The city remains one of the most desirable locations to live in England for these reasons

and many more – another is its excellent communications, with motorways within easy reach and high-speed rail connections to London, Paris and Brussels.

The wide range of excellent educational establishments is another major draw for people moving to the area.

A recent study has shown that in the 12 months leading to April 2011 a five-bedroom property has, on average, increased by 4 per cent from £386,250 to £400,000. However, due to the recent unpredictability of the market, a four-bedroom home has decreased in value by the same percentage, from £370,000 to £355,000.

Three-bedroom homes have dropped by a similar percentage over the same period to £239,995.

But the greatest fall over the last year has been in the value of two-bedroom homes – down from £207,475 to £175,000. This means there are a number of bargains available in the area for people who want a smaller home.

As if all this wasn't enough, the opening of a bigger and better Marlowe Theatre is a strong pointer to Canterbury's ever-brighter future.



PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT ON CANTERBURY

What makes it special

CANTERBURY is one of the most attractive cities in Britain and receives thousands and thousands of visitors each year. The cathedral and its surroundings are recognised by UNESCO as being of worldwide importance, while there are many other buildings of historic importance including sections of the original medieval city wall and a Roman villa. The city has excellent shopping facilities and a range of pubs, clubs, bars and restaurants. It is also the home of Kent County Cricket, and punts ply their way past parks and open spaces through the River Stour, which flows through the city centre.

Room to improve

THE city's roads can get extremely busy and parking is sometimes a problem. During the summer months the sheer popularity of the place means the city centre is often crowded. Some of Canterbury's housing estates are in need of regeneration and improvement

Prices

THE full spectrum of house prices is available in Canterbury and its surrounding villages. Places such as Bridge, less than five miles away, have homes on the market for more than £1,000,000, with grounds and paddocks for horses. Meanwhile, there are bargains to be had just outside the city walls and the rental scene is extremely buoyant thanks to the large amount of student accommodation. Some of the houses on the market are subject to planning restrictions due to their listed status.

Shops

ALMOST all major chain and department stores are represented and the relatively



new Whitefriars shopping centre is pedestrianised and central. There are also many smaller stores offering unique goods, and souvenir shops are plentiful. Fresh local produce is on sale in several stores and the town is famous for its range of bookstores, although the number has decreased in recent years. There are also two large out-of-town centres, one on Sturry Road and the other in Wincheap.

Schools

THE city and its villages are well served by primary schools, and class numbers are relatively small in many of them. Secondary schools such as Simon Langton in the city itself are highly sought after, while the private schools of St Edmunds, Kent College and Kings School are recognised for their excellence. The city is also home to the University of Kent and several other further educational establishments, including the recently-founded American University, which attracts students from across the world.

Connections

HIGH-SPEED trains link the city to London St Pancras via Ashford International, which also runs services to Europe. Other rail services run to Charing Cross and Victoria

from Canterbury's two stations, East and West. The port of Dover is also reachable in 30 minutes by train. Buses run to the east Kent coast at least four times an hour and also frequently to Thanet and nearby Whitstable, Herne Bay and Faversham. The A2 runs close to the city and becomes the M2 just a few miles west.

What's on?

THE rebuilt and extended Marlowe Theatre reopens its doors later this year and will bring top-name acts to the city. The Gulbenkian has a wide range of events, including music, comedy and visiting speakers. There is a flourishing music scene in the pubs and there was even a 'Canterbury Sound' in the 1970s featuring bands such as Caravan. The city also has a museum. The annual Canterbury Festival attracts internationally-known acts and Kent County Cricket Club play matches, including some against international opposition, at the St Lawrence Ground. The city also has a wide range of top-class restaurants, including ABode, which is run by celebrity chef Michael Caines.

Around and about

SIX miles away from the city along the coast is the fashionable town of Whitstable, internationally renowned for its oysters. It has a large number of restaurants serving world-class seafood and an annual festival. Herne Bay is a popular leisure resort, while Chatham village is a frequent picturesque setting for films and famous for its castle. The Pilgrims' Way is one of England's most famous footpaths and descends into the city from the North Downs and walkers can follow in the footsteps of Chaucer's medieval knight, miller and wife of Bath.

NEXT WEEK: PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT FOCUSES ON RAMSGATE

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Picture by Paul Jerreat: **Westgate Towers, Canterbury**

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£270,000

Updown Way

A FOUR-BEDROOM link detached house in a prime location on the popular Chartham Downs, perfect for potential buyers needing four bedrooms but who are restricted on budget.

The property is presented in lovely condition throughout, with a recently-refitted en-suite shower room and family bathroom suites and modern well appointed kitchen.

The accommodation comprises an entrance hall with cloakroom and stairs to the first floor, a generous lounge with patio doors to the back garden and a well-fitted attractive open-plan kitchen/dining room.

On the first floor the landing leads you to four good-sized bedrooms with a master en-suite and the family bathroom with separate shower cubicle.

Agent: Mann Countrywide
01227 454125
canterbury@
manncountrywide.co.uk



Three-bed home bigger than it looks

£230,000

Wincheap

A FLEXIBLE three-bedroom end-of-terrace house that has undergone a refurbishment in recent years.

This has resulted in this fine home retaining much of its original charm yet it embraces modern living.

It is larger than it looks and well positioned close to the city centre and amenities.

Agent: Mann Countrywide
01227 454125
canterbury@
manncountrywide.co.uk

Link detached house on the popular Chartham Downs



South-facing back garden is a feature

£185,000

St Augustines

MILES and Barr is offering this three-bedroom end-of-terrace home, which is part of the St Augustines development in Chartham. It includes an entrance hall, fitted kitchen and lounge-diner on the ground floor, while the first floor has three good-sized bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property has a decked front garden, while the back garden is south-facing and landscaped with a variety of shrubs and plants. There are two allocated parking spaces, along with a garage at the rear.

Agent: Miles and Barr
01227 200600



Grade II-listed cottage charm

£290,000

Cross Street

MANN Countrywide is delighted to offer for sale this extended Grade II-listed character cottage on three floors in Cross Street, St Dunstans, Canterbury. The accommodation comprises a lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs

WC. On the first floor are two double bedrooms and a bathroom and there is a further double bedroom on the second floor.

The current owner has maintained the property to a very high standard and has had a double-storey extension built to give more living space.

Agent: Mann Countrywide
01227 454125
canterbury@
manncountrywide.co.uk

Close to both the city centre and train station

£250,000

St Dunstans Street

THIS extremely desirable and characterful home is located at the top of St Dunstans Street and is within walking distance of Canterbury West station and the city

centre with its wide range of amenities.

The building, which is a Grade II-listed former hotel, was converted in 2004-5 into six exclusive apartments. The accommodation is spacious and airy with generous-sized rooms comprising entrance hall, two double bedrooms, with

the master enjoying an en-suite shower room, family bathroom, 19ft lounge-diner and a galley-style fitted kitchen measuring 16ft in length. As well as its own private courtyard, the property boasts an allocated parking space.

Agent: Miles and Barr
01227 200600



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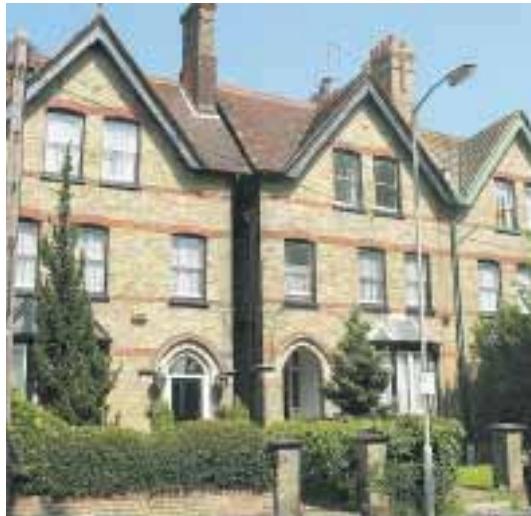
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Old Dover Road

A RECENTLY-refurbished, fabulous two-double-bedroom first-floor apartment in one of Canterbury's most attractive areas, Old Dover Road in the south of the city.

Also situated opposite the county cricket ground, the

apartment offers a spacious open-plan sitting room with fully-integrated kitchen, two double bedrooms, bathroom with overhead shower, views of the cricket ground and on-street parking – there is private parking available for £25pcm.

Available end of June.

Agent: Icon Property Management

Telephone: 01227 469134



Close to station and great amenities

£700pcm

St Dunstans

THIS highly-desirable split-level flat is located in the

popular St Dunstans area of Canterbury. The West train station is just round the corner and there are great local amenities near the city centre. The property consists of modern kitchen,

a bright, sunny living room, modern shower room, master bedroom and a small single bedroom/study. Also includes parking for one car.

Agent: Sandersons

Telephone: 01227 647068



Apartment has balcony with views

£800pcm

Near K&C Hospital

A DOUBLE-bedroom apartment, perfect for professionals, close to Kent & Canterbury Hospital. It features a modern, fully-fitted kitchen/living room, double bedroom with built in-wardrobes, bathroom, plus a decked balcony with views of Canterbury.

The property is well positioned and comes with a parking space. The town centre is a few minutes' walk away and offers a range of shopping and restaurants.

Agent: Martin & Co

Telephone: 01227 455717



Open-plan lounge is light and airy

£895pcm

Spires

CLOSE to the West station, this second-floor apartment is

located on the popular Spires development.

Finished to a good standard with laminate flooring and some exposed brickwork, the open-plan lounge is spacious, light and airy. There is a fitted

kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite bathroom and further bedroom with shower room. There is allocated parking for two cars.

Agent: Sandersons

Telephone: 01227 647068



Suitable for professionals

£1,100pcm

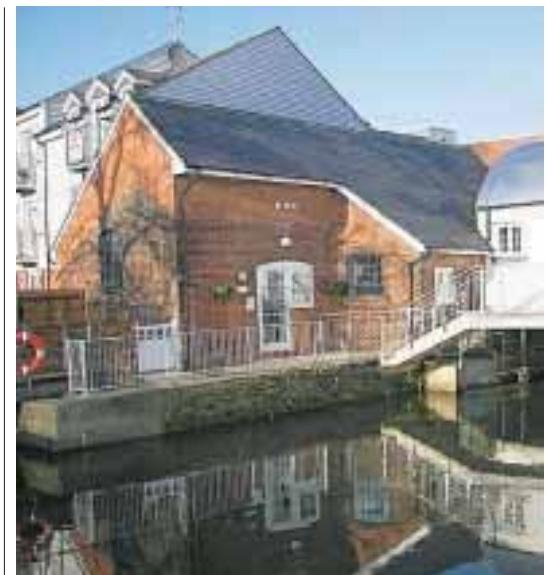
Temple Mews

A CONTEMPORARY three/four-bedroom town house. This property is two minutes' walk from the city centre. It offers a spacious sitting room and dining area, fitted kitchen, bathroom with overhead shower, separate newly installed shower room, three double bedrooms, a study/fourth bedroom, balcony and front decking area plus an integral garage.

Ideal for professional sharers, couple or family. Available mid-May.

Agent: Icon Property Management

Telephone: 01227 469134



Sought-after location

£1,050pcm

Barton Mill Road

A GREAT two-bedroom property in one of the most sought-after developments in Canterbury.

The property is part of the

original mill building, which has been fully refurbished and modernised.

This fully-furnished property, which is located on the prestigious Barton Mill development, offers two double bedrooms.

Agent: Martin & Co

Telephone: 01227 455717

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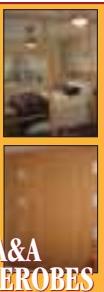


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First GEAR MOToring NEWS

- Vauxhall's hottest Corsa could run rings around the opposition
- Toyota Auris Edition looks set to give Ford Focus run for its money



Chevy tops survey for reliability and cheap repairs

Driving

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Lexus sounds out rivals

Why Toyota's 'Quiet Revolution' may have just got a little louder

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Lexus rivals watch out

Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HAVING scared the life out of German premium brands like BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Audi at first, Lexus itself has been flatlining for some time now.

And this is despite the Toyota luxury arm ofering the parent company's hybrid technology across most of its line-up: petrol-electric powertrains work particularly well in larger cars that can mask battery weight and bulk more easily.

There are also taxation and social points to be gained from running eco-friendly big cars, yet owners will tell you that instant pulling power from the cars' electric motors means performance is there when you want it.

But the Japanese premium brand has still struggled to make sales headway during the post-recession years, until now.

For Lexus reckons to have stolen a march on German rivals by offering the executive sector's first hybrid, the new CT200h (from £23,485).

It breaks with brand tradition by being its first model with front-wheel drive only – the powertrain came from Toyota's popular Prius hybrid – but the rest of the car is pure Lexus, with generous equipment, immaculately trimmed interior, quality seating and lots of refinement, though the armrest cappings are not up to the standard of the rest.

The driver experience is also a class above the rather uninvolved Prius. Not only does the Lexus have a sportier chassis – without compromising ride quality – but the automatic box has three settings: eco, normal and sport, with all three delivering what they say according to the on-screen powertrain Energy Monitor schematics.

The 60kW electric motor can be seen there helping out the 1.8-litre petrol engine when needed, but the consequences of your right foot actions are not the only thing on show as the

LEXUS CT200H SE-L : PRICE £25,200



ECONOMY DRIVE:

The Lexus CT200H SE-L looks good enough to give the Audi A3 and BMW 1-Series a run for their money

left foot's braking shows energy being recovered and fed back into the batteries.

This backs up the CT200h's full electric or EV mode, which works at up to 25mph and while battery power lasts. It is perfect for short runs and in traffic, when you are never going to go particularly fast and where there would normally be more pollution for very little gain.

It also helps the Lexus escape road tax and qualify for low benefit-in-kind taxation for company car users.

But they don't have to like it just because of its double-eco message – economical and ecological – as the CT200h also works as an everyday car: it has prestige, and it is a practical five-door hatchback with good rear legroom yet it looks low slung like a coupe.

It can certainly compete against the Audi A3 and the now ageing and never elegant BMW 1-Series, but it does look pricey against the

FACT FILE

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Image: | ★★★★★ |
| Space: | ★★★ |
| Value: | ★★★★ |
| Reliability: | ★★★★★ |
| How green?: | ★★★★★ |
| Road tax: | £zero |
| Best rival: | VW Golf Blue Motion |

Kent dealers:
Lexus Canterbury 01227 455 553
Lexus Tunbridge Wells 01892 700 400

new VW Golf BlueMotion, which offers the low emission counter argument via greener diesels, which can be more economical at motorway speeds.

On the other hand, the VW cannot match the CT's quiet running – more than justifying the Lexus "Quiet Revolution" marketing campaign – and it is surprisingly chuckable.

No, you don't get the full driving experience because of the automatic 'box and no means of making any manual gear selection, but it can be hustled on the bends and is no bore.

Lexus Canterbury dealer principal Paul Stapylton said: "The CT offers class leading refinement levels, superb quality of materials, unparalleled attention to detail, high specification versus competitors and it's great to drive.

"We expect it to attract many people who haven't driven or even considered a full hybrid vehicle before."

First GEAR MOTORING NEWS



You can rely on a Chevy

CHEVROLET tops the latest Warranty Direct Reliability Index.

The US maker of cars like the new Orlando MPV (pictured) has knocked long-running reliability star, Honda of Japan, off the independent warranty specialist's top spot.

Chevy was not only the survey's most dependable brand but also cheapest to repair.



Hottest Corsa to hit the road

VAUXHALL launches its most powerful Corsa hot hatch ever at the end of May.

The £22,295 Nurburgring Edition develops 205PS (203bhp) – up from the 192PS of the standard VXR's 1.6-litre turbocharged unit – delivering 0-60mph in 6.5 seconds, with a new limited slip differential to ensure the extra power does not disappear in tyre smoke.



New Auris a worthy Edition

TOYOTA has upgraded its UK-built three and five-door Auris hatchback line-up to include a new high-value entry version – the Auris Edition.

This version of the world No 1 carmaker's Ford Focus challenger looks a winner with its standard-fit 16-inch alloys and electric retractable mirrors.

At £15,225 it costs the same as the T2 model it replaces.



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| 10 | 10 | CORSA 1.2 SXI 3 DR AIR CON, VXR STYLE PACK, UNDER 5,000 MILES, EX DEMO, STAR SILVER | £8,995 |
| 10 | 10 | CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3 DR A/C, EX DEMONSTRATOR, UNDER 6,000 MILES, METRO | £8,995 |
| 09 | 09 | CORSA 1.3CDTi 90PS DESIGN 5 DR AIR CON, ALLOYS, E/PACK, UNDER 28,000 MILES, STAR SILVER | £8,995 |
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| 07 | 07 | CORSA 1.2 SXI 5 DR AIR CON, ALLOYS, UNDER 26,000 MILES, BLACK SAPPHIRE | £6,750 |
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NEW ASTRA

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| 10 | 10 | ASTRA 1.7CDTi 125PS SRI 5 DR AIR CON, SAT NAV, LEATHER PACK, FLEX RIDE, 19" ALLOYS, TECHNICAL GREY | £14,850 |
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| 09 | 59 | ASTRA 1.4 ACTIVE 5 DR A/C, ALLOYS, EX DEMO, UNDER 12,000 MILES, SOVEREIGN SILVER | £8,995 |
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| 07 | 07 | ASTRA 1.8 DESIGN 5 DR AUTOMATIC, AIR CON, HALF LEATHER, UNDER 20,000 MILES, SILVER LIGHTNING | £7,695 |
| 08 | 08 | ASTRA 1.4 SXI 5 DR A/C, ALLOYS, UNDER 37,000 MILES, SILVER LIGHTNING | £7,450 |
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| 10 | 10 | ASTRA 1.9CDTi 150PS DESIGN 2 DR, AIR CON, HALF LEATHER, EX DEMONSTRATOR, BLACK SAPPHIRE | £14,995 |
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ZAFIRA / MERIVA

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| 11 | 11 | CAPTIVA 2.0VCDi LT 5 DR AUTOMATIC 7ST, A/C, HALF LEATHER, PRE REG, 5YR WARRANTY, ICE SILVER | £19,995 |
| 11 | 11 | ORLANDO 2.0VCDi LTZ 5 DR AUTOMATIC, AIR CON, UNDER 100 MILES EX DEMONSTRATOR, CARBON FLASH BLACK | £18,995 |
| 09 | 09 | CAPTIVA 2.0VCDi LTX 5 DR 7 SEAT 4 X 4, AIR CON, LEATHER PACK, E/PACK, UNDER 18,000 MILES, ICE SILVER | £16,995 |
| 10 | 60 | NEW MERIVA 1.4 TURBO 120 EXCLUSIVE 5DR, AIR CON, DEMONSTRATOR, UNDER 5,000 MILES, TECHNICAL GREY | £14,995 |
| 07 | 07 | CAPTIVA 2.0VCDi LTX 5 DR 7 ST AUTO, 4 X 4, AIR CON, LEATHER PACK, E/PACK, UNDER 56,000 MILES, VELVET GREEN | £13,995 |
| 11 | 59 | VIVARO 2.0CDTi 90 COMBI MINIBUS SWB, 8 SEATER, EXECUTIVE FAMILY BUS, UNDER 25,000 MILES, SILVER, NO VAT | £12,995 |
| 08 | 08 | ZAFIRA 1.9CDTi 150PS DESIGN 5 DR A/C, HALF LEATHER, ALLOYS, E/PACK, UNDER 45,000 MILES, PANACOTTA | £10,895 |
| 09 | 09 | MERIVA 1.4 LIFE 5 DR A/C, EX DEMONSTRATOR, UNDER 7,000 MILES, BLACK SAPPHIRE | £6,995 |
| 07 | 07 | RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.5DCi EXTREME, 5 DR, AIR CON, UNDER 45,000 MILES, SILVER | £6,995 |

OTHER MAKES

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| 06 | 56 | BMW 116i ES 5 DR AIR CON, ALLOYS, UNDER 24,000 MILES, BLACK | £8,995 |
| 07 | 07 | VW JETTA 1.9TDI 5 DR 4 A/C, UNDER 37,000 MILES, METALLIC BLUE | £7,995 |
| 09 | 09 | HYUNDAI I 30 5 STYLE 5 DR ESTATE, A/C, UNDER 31,000 MILES, RED | £7,695 |
| 05 | 55 | HONDA CIVIC 2.2 CDTi SPORT 5 DR, AIR CON, ALLOYS, NON NET Q, UNDER 72,000 MILES, SILVER | £7,695 |
| 07 | 07 | RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.5DCi EXTREME, 5 DR, AIR CON, UNDER 45,000 MILES, SILVER | £6,950 |
| 05 | 05 | VW GOLF 1.6FSI SE 5 DR AIR CON, NON NETWORK-Q, UNDER 65,000 MILES, SILVER | £5,950 |
| 08 | 08 | FIAT PANDA 1.2 DYNAMIC 5 DR AIR CON, UNDER 30,000 MILES, YELLOW | £5,495 |

AUTOMATICS

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|----|----|--|---------|
| 11 | 11 | CAPTIVA 2.0VCDi LT 5 DR AUTOMATIC 7ST, A/C, HALF LEATHER, PRE REG, 5YR WARRANTY, ICE SILVER | £19,995 |
| 11 | 11 | ORLANDO 2.0VCDi LTZ 5 DR AUTOMATIC, AIR CON, UNDER 100 MILES EX DEMONSTRATOR, CARBON FLASH BLACK | £18,995 |
| 09 | 59 | INSIGNIA 2.0CDTi 160PS SRI AUTOMATIC, AIR CON, SPORTS TOURER, ES DEMONSTRATOR, SOVEREIGN SILVER | £15,995 |
| 07 | 07 | CAPTIVA 2.0VCDi LTX 5 DR 7 ST AUTO, 4 X 4, AIR CON, LEATHER PACK, E/PACK, UNDER 56,000 MILES, VELVET GREEN | £13,995 |
| 11 | 11 | AVEO 1.4 LT 5 DR AUTOMATIC AIR CON, DEMONSTRATOR, DELIVERY MILEAGE, CARBON FLASH BLACK | £9,995 |
| 10 | 60 | AVEO 1.4 LT 5 DR AUTOMATIC AIR CON, EX DEMONSTRATOR, UNDER 5,000 MILES, POLY SILVER | £8,995 |
| 10 | 60 | AVEO 1.4 LT 5 DR AUTOMATIC AIR CON, EX DEMONSTRATOR, UNDER 5,000 MILES, RUBY RED | £8,995 |
| 10 | 60 | AVEO 1.4 LT 5 DR AIR CON, EX DEMONSTRATOR, UNDER 5,000 MILES, CARBON FLASH BLACK | £8,450 |
| 08 | 08 | KALOS 1.2 S 3 DR AIR CON, UNDER 47,000 MILES, SPORTS BLUE | £3,595 |
| 10 | 60 | SPARK 1.2 LT 5 DR AIR CON, REAR PARK ASSIST, EX DEMONSTRATOR, OLYMPIC WHITE | £7,695 |
| 10 | 60 | SPARK 1.2 LT 5 DR AIR CON, REAR PARK ASSIST, EX DEMONSTRATOR, MOROCCAN BLUE | £7,695 |
| 10 | 60 | SPARK 1.2 LT 5 DR AIR CON, EX DEMONSTRATOR, GREEN COCKTAIL | £7,495 |
| 11 | 11 | SPARK 1.0 LS 5 DR AIR CON, PRE GER DELIVERY MILEAGE, 5 YEAR WARRANTY, MOROCCAN BLUE | £7,380 |
| 11 | 11 | SPARK 1.0 LS 5 DR AIR CON, PRE GER DELIVERY MILEAGE, 5 YEAR WARRANTY, MISTY LAKE | £7,380 |
| 10 | 10 | SPARK 1.2 LT 5 DR AIR CON, REAR PARK ASSIST, EX DEMONSTRATOR, ICE SILVER | £6,995 |
| 10 | 60 | SPARK 1.0 LS 5 DR AIR CON, EX DEMONSTRATOR, UNDER 5,000 MILES, CARBON FLASH BLACK | £6,695 |
| 07 | 07 | MATIZ 1.0 SE PLUS 5 DR AIR CON, ONE OWNER, UNDER 4,000 MILES, JAZZ BLUE | £4,450 |
| 05 | 05 | MATIZ 1.0 SE 5 DR, NON NETWORK-Q, UNDER 27,000 MILES, POLY SILVER | £3,495 |
| 05 | 05 | MATIZ 0.8 SE PLUS 5 DR, NON NETWORK-Q, UNDER 52,000 MILES, COSMOS BLACK | £3,250 |
| 05 | 05 | MATIZ 1.0 SE 5 DR, NON NETWORK-Q, UNDER 27,000 MILES, COSMOS BLACK | £3,250 |

CHEVROLET

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|----|----|--|---------|
| 11 | 11 | CAPTIVA 2.0VCDi LT 5 DR AUTOMATIC 7ST, A/C, HALF LEATHER, PRE REG, 5YR WARRANTY, ICE SILVER | £19,995 |
| 09 | 09 | CAPTIVA 2.0VCDi LTX 5 DR 7 SEAT 4 X 4, AIR CON, LEATHER PACK, E/PACK, UNDER 18,000 MILES, ICE SILVER | £16,995 |
| 07 | 07 | ORLANDO 2.0VCDi LTZ 5 DR AUTOMATIC, AIR CON, UNDER 100 MILES EX DEMONSTRATOR, CARBON FLASH BLACK | £18,995 |
| 11 | 11 | NEW MERIVA 1.4 TURBO 120 EXCLUSIVE 5DR, AIR CON, DEMONSTRATOR, UNDER 5,000 MILES, MOROCCAN BLUE | £12,995 |
| 11 | 11 | AVEO 1.4 LT 5 DR AUTOMATIC AIR CON, DEMONSTRATOR, DELIVERY MILEAGE, CARBON FLASH BLACK | £9,995 |
| 10 | 60 | AVEO 1.4 LT 5 DR AUTOMATIC AIR CON, EX DEMONSTRATOR, UNDER 5,000 MILES, POLY SILVER | £8,995 |
| 10 | 60 | AVEO 1.4 LT 5 DR AUTOMATIC AIR CON, EX DEMONSTRATOR, UNDER 5,000 MILES, RUBY RED | £8,995 |
| 10 | 60 | AVEO 1.4 LT 5 DR AIR CON, EX DEMONSTRATOR, UNDER 5,000 MILES, CARBON FLASH BLACK | £8,450 |
| 08 | 08 | KALOS 1.2 S 3 DR AIR CON, UNDER 47,000 MILES, SPORTS BLUE | £3,595 |
| 10 | 60 | SPARK 1.2 LT 5 DR AIR CON, REAR PARK ASSIST, EX DEMONSTRATOR, OLYMPIC WHITE | £7,695 |
| 10 | 60 | SPARK 1.2 LT 5 DR AIR CON, REAR PARK ASSIST, EX DEMONSTRATOR, MOROCCAN BLUE | £7,695 |
| 10 | 60 | SPARK 1.2 LT 5 DR AIR CON, EX DEMONSTRATOR, GREEN COCKTAIL</td | |

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| | |
|--|--------------|
| Model | CT 200h SE-I |
| 35 Monthly payments | £299.00 |
| Cash price | £23,485.00 |
| Representative 9.9% APR* | |
| Customer deposit | £5,880.39 |
| Amount of credit | £17,604.61 |
| Guaranteed Future Value/ optional final payment | £11,278.80 |
| Total amount payable | £27,624.19 |
| Fixed rate of interest (per annum) | 5.10% |
| Term | 36 months |

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CT 200h prices start from £23,485 OTR. Model shown CT 200h SE-I costing £23,995 including optional metallic paint at £510. Price correct at time of going to print and includes VAT, delivery, number plates, full tank of fuel, one year's road fund license and £55 first registration fee. *99% Representative APR over 3 years on Lexus Connect Contract Purchase available on all new retail CT 200h SE-I, when registered and financed through Lexus Financial Services Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ at participating Lexus Centres, valid until 31 March 2011. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Vehicle on sale from March 2011. Terms and conditions apply. Excess mileage charge applies over 30,000 at 9 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Subject to availability.

CT 200h fuel consumption and CO₂ figures: urban 68.9 mpg (4.1L/100km), extra-urban 70.6 mpg (4.0L/100km), combined 68.9 mpg (4.1L/100km). CO₂ emissions combined 94 g/km.



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Prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable against manufacturer's recommended OTR price at the time of publication and include VAT, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' road fund licence. All offers and savings are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 1st April and 30th June 2011, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are subject to availability, may be varied or withdrawn at any time and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Warranty terms and exclusions apply. See www.hyundai.co.uk/owners/5YearWarranty or ask your local dealer.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.9 (10.9) - 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 33.2 (8.5) - 67.3 (4.2) CO₂ Emissions 225 - 99 g/km.

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Model shown is the 1.2 SZ4 5 door M/T available at £12,505.00 on the road (metallic paint available at £405.00).

*Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): urban from 41.5 (6.8) to 46.3 (6.1), extra urban from 57.6 (4.9) to 64.2 (4.4), combined from 50.4 (5.6) to 56.5 (5.0). Official CO₂ emissions from 129g/km to 116g/km.

The Suzuki Swift 1.2 M/T models fall into Government Vehicle Excise Band C at £30 per year from year 2 onwards, first year free. ΔESP® is a registered trademark of Daimler AG. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press.

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| 2010 (59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles | £19,995 |
| 2010 (60) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles | £19,995 |
| 2010 (60) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 950 miles | £19,995 |
| 2010 (60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles | £14,995 |
| 2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, STER SILVER, 1900 miles | £13,995 |
| 2010 (10) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOUNTAIN GREY, 1610 miles | £13,995 |
| 2010 (60) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles | £13,995 |
| 2010 (60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 300 miles | £11,995 |
| 2010 (60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5MPV AUTO, RED, 600 miles | £11,995 |
| 2010 (60) NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 3000 miles | £11,995 |
| 2010 (60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles | £11,995 |
| 2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, 3000 miles | £10,995 |
| 2010 (60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles | £10,995 |
| 2010 (60) TOYOTA YARIS TR VVT-i SENSODRIVE Hatch AUTO, BLACK, 999 miles | £10,995 |
| 2011 (60) VAUXHALL AGILA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 650 miles | £10,995 |
| 2010 (10) NISSAN MICRA 1.2 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles | £9,995 |
| 2010 (10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, OTTOMON BLUE, 1000 miles | £9,995 |
| 2010 (10) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1800 miles | £9,995 |
| 2010 (10) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1800 miles | £9,995 |
| 2010 (60) PEUGEOT 207 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles | £9,995 |
| 2010 (60) PEUGEOT 207 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 500 miles | £9,995 |
| 2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles | £9,995 |
| 2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles | £9,995 |
| 2010 (60) PEUGEOT 107 URBA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 850 miles | £7,995 |
| 2010 (60) KIA PICANTO STRIKE 5DR HATCH AUTO, COOL BLUE, 999 miles | £7,995 |
| 2010 (60) NISSAN PIXO i-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles | £7,995 |

CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS COUPES

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|---|---------|
| 2009 (59) BMW 3 SERIES 320i SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles | £19,995 |
| 2008 (08) BMW 3 SERIES 320i SE COUPE AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles | £18,995 |
| 2009 (59) NISSAN MICRA 25 CONVERTIBLE CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles | £9,995 |
| 2007 (07) PEUGEOT 307 CC COUPE CABRIOLET AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles | £9,995 |
| 2006 (06) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles | £9,995 |
| 2007 (07) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles | £9,995 |
| 2006 (06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2001 (51) PEUGEOT 206 COUPE CABRIOLET S COUPE AUTO, RED, 26000 miles | £3,995 |

NEW FIESTA

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| 2010 (60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles | £11,995 |
| 2009 (58) FORD FIESTA STYLE PLUS 3DR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 3000 miles | £9,995 |

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

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| 2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles | £10,995 |
| 2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles | £8,995 |
| 2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles | £8,995 |
| 2008 (08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles | £5,995 |
| 2008 (08) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, VISION BLUE, 8000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2008 (08) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 7000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2005 (05) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles | £4,995 |

FOCUS ESTATES

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| 2008 (08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1250 miles | £9,995 |
| 2007 (57) FORD FOCUS STYLE ESTATE AUTO, SEA GREY, 12000 miles | £6,995 |

RENAULT SCENIC

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| 2008 (08) RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles | £9,995 |
| 2007 (07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIC VVT 16V 7STR MPV AUTO, RED, 13000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 26000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2008 (07) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIC VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles | £6,995 |

RENAULT

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| 2010 (59) RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles | £11,995 |
| 2010 (60) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles | £9,995 |
| 2007 (57) RENAULT MODUS GRAND DYNAMIC VVT 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles | £9,995 |
| 2007 (57) RENAULT GRAND MODUS GRAND DYNAMIC VVT 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles | £9,995 |
| 2010 (10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS GRAND DYNAMIC VVT 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, OTTOMON BLUE, 1000 miles | £9,995 |
| 2006 (06) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles | £9,995 |
| 2006 (06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIC VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2009 (09) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2008 (08) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 15000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2006 (06) RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION SPORT TOURER 1.6 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles | £6,995 |
| 2008 (08) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, RED, 12000 miles | £6,995 |
| 2008 (07) RENAULT MODUS DYNAMIC VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles | £6,995 |
| 2006 (06) RENAULT LAGUNA DYNAMIC VVT 1.6 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 33000 miles | £4,995 |

CHEVROLET

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| 2009 (09) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles | £6,995 |
| 2008 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles | £5,995 |
| 2008 (08) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles | £5,995 |
| 2008 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles | £5,995 |
| 2008 (08) CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, SPORTS BLUE, 12000 miles | £5,995 |
| 2006 (06) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles | £4,995 |
| 2008 (07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 24000 miles | £4,995 |

HYUNDAI

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| 2008 (08) HYUNDAI GETZ GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles | £6,995 |
| 2008 (08) HYUNDAI GETZ GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1500 miles | £6,995 |
| 2008 (08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GS MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles | £6,995 |
| 2008 (08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GS MPV AUTO, BLACK, 7000 miles | £6,995 |
| 2008 (08) HYUNDAI GETZ COX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles | £6,995 |
| 2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles | £5,995 |
| 2007 (07) HYUNDAI MATRIX GS SALON AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles | £5,995 |
| 2006 (06) HYUNDAI GETZ COX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles | £5,995 |
| 2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 miles | £5,995 |

KIA

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| 2009 (09) KIA CEED GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles | £6,995 |
| 2010 (60) KIA PICANTO STRIKE 5DR HATCH AUTO, COOL BLUE, 999 miles | £7,995 |

DAIHATSU

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| 2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIROCCO SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles | £6,995 |
| 2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIROCCO SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles | £5,995 |
| 2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIROCCO SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles | £6,995 |
| 2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIROCCO SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles | £5,995 |
| 2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIROCCO 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles | £5,995 |

BMW

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| 2009 (09) BMW 3 SERIES 320i SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles | £19,995 |
| 2008 (08) BMW 3 SERIES 320i COUPE AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles | £19,995 |
| 2008 (08) BMW 3 SERIES 318i M SPORT TOURING ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles | £16,995 |

FIAT

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| 2010 (10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles | £9,495 |
| 2008 (08) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles | £9,495 |

FUSION

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|---|---------|
| 2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles | £16,995 |
| 2008 (08) FIORD FUSION ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1800 miles | £7,995 |
| 2008 (08) FIORD FUSION 1.8 5DR HATCH AUTO, SEA GREY, 3000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2008 (08) FIORD FUSION 1.8 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2008 (08) FIORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, OCEAN BLUE, 2000 miles | £5,995 |

CITROEN

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| 2009 (09) CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE 1.6V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 350 miles | £9,495 |
| 2008 (08) CITROEN XSARA PICASSO DESIRE 1.6V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 40000 miles | £5,995 |

CORSA

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| 2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles | £9,495 |
| 2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA, 4000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, LANCELOT, GOLD, 5000 miles | £5,995 |

CORSA

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| 2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.6V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2007 (07) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.6V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2007 (07) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.6V 5DR HATCH AUTO, LANCELOT, GOLD, 5000 miles | £5,995 |
| 2006 (06) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.6V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles | £7,995 |
| 2006 (06) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.6V 5DR HATCH AUTO, LANCELOT, GOLD, 5000 miles | £5,995 |

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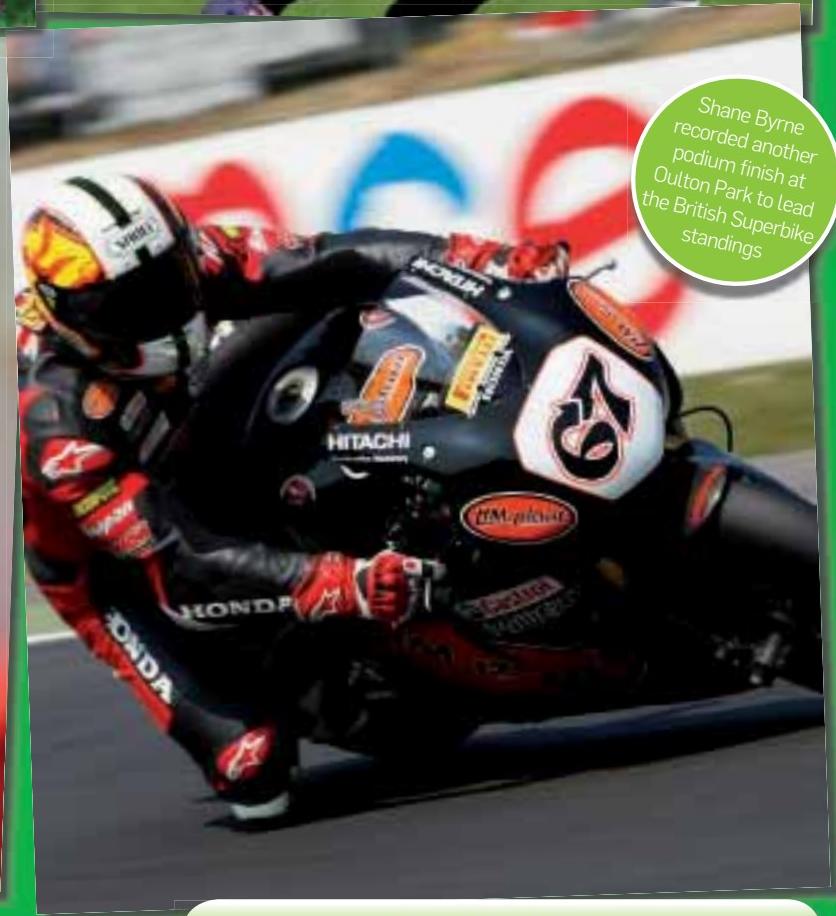
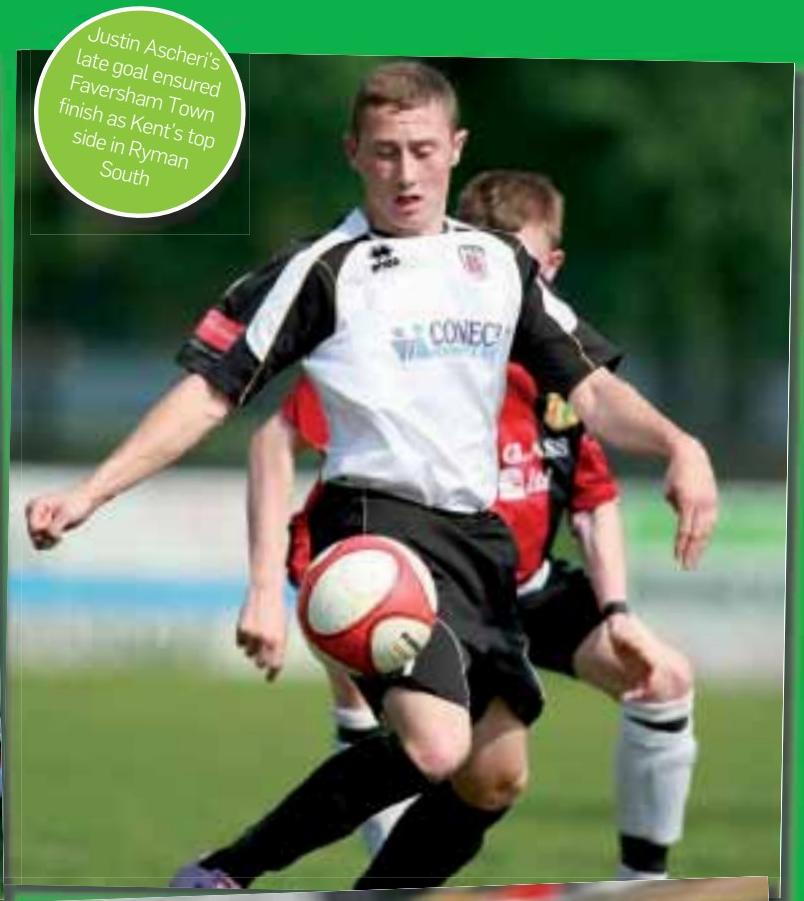
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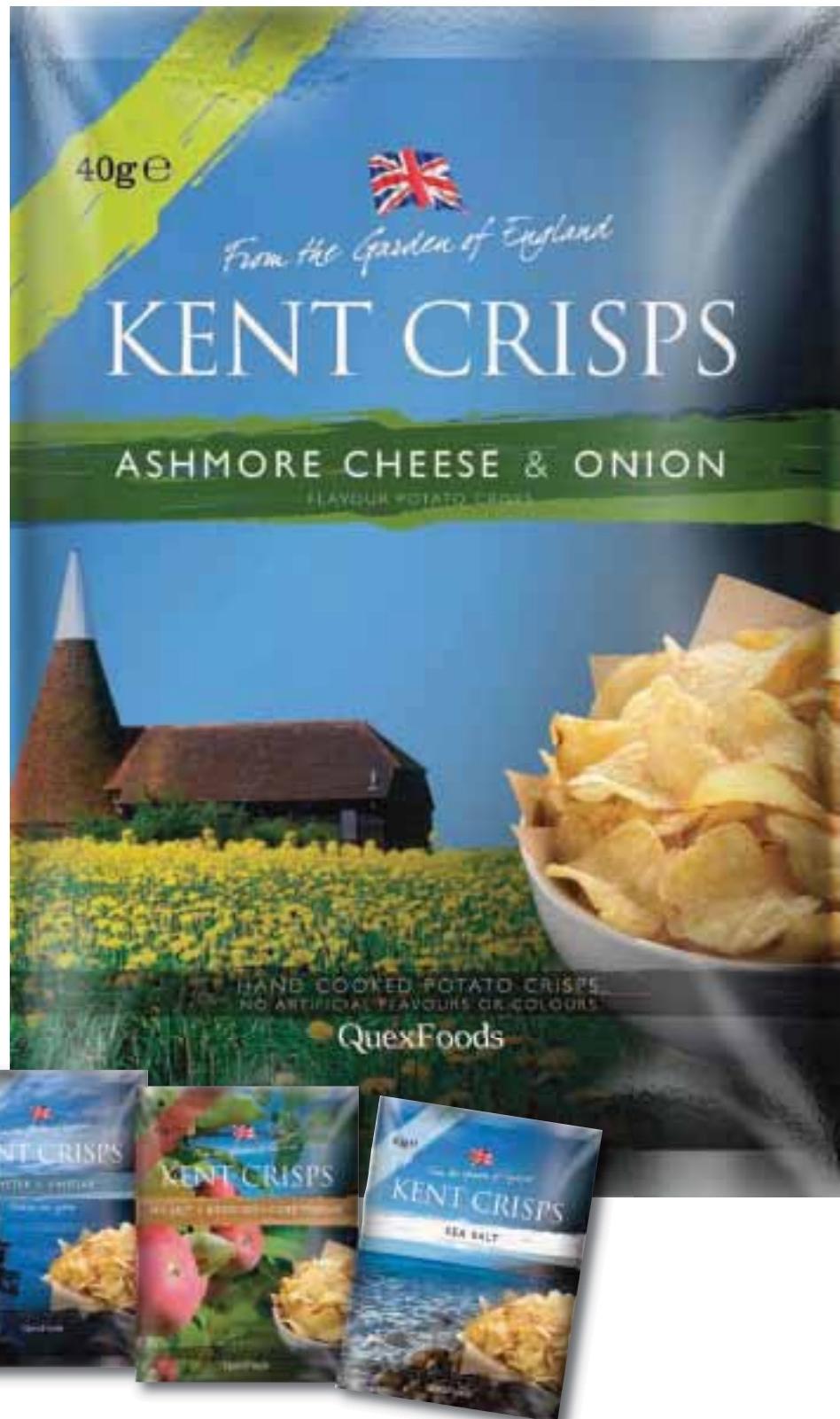
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KENT FLAVOUR OF THE WEEK

ASHMORE CHEESE AND ONION FLAVOUR POTATO CRISPS

ASHMORE FARMHOUSE CHEESE IS MADE NEAR CANTERBURY IN A CHEDDAR STYLE. AFTER MILLING IT'S WRAPPED IN MUSLIN AND PRESSED FOR TWO DAYS IN OLD 19TH CENTURY PRESSES. THE CHEESES ARE THEN UNWRAPPED AND PLACED ON AGED PINE SHELVES IN THE MATURING ROOM FOR AT LEAST FIVE MONTHS. EACH CHEESE IS TURNED AND STOKED DAILY.

- 100% KENT POTATOES
- NO ARTIFICIAL COLOURS
- NO ARTIFICIAL FLAVOURS
- NO ARTIFICIAL PRESERVATIVES
- COOKED BY HAND



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